

JPRS-UPS-87-026

3 APRIL 1987

USSR Report

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semimonthly by the NTIS, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

Soviet books and journal articles displaying a copyright notice are reproduced and sold by NTIS with permission of the copyright agency of the Soviet Union. Permission for further reproduction must be obtained from copyright owner.

3 APRIL 1987

USSR REPORT

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

CONTENTS

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

| | |
|---|----|
| Slyunkov Report on BSSR Socialist Pledges for 1987 (SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA, 11 Jan 87) | 1 |
| Minsk Meeting Hears Slyunkov, Discusses Pledges | 1 |
| Slyunkov's Report | 2 |
| Grishkyavichus Speaks at Lithuanian Trade Union Congress (P.P. Grishkyavichus; SOVETSKAYA LITVA, 25 Jan 87) | 22 |
| Raykom Elects One of Two Candidates by Secret Ballot (PRAVDA, 10 Feb 87; SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, 10 Feb 87) | 27 |
| PRAVDA Report, by T. Ganicheva | 27 |
| SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Report, by V. Kostyukovskiy | 31 |
| Kemerovo Obkom First Secretary Comments, by N.S. Yermakov | 35 |

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

| | |
|--|----|
| Reviewer Recalls 'Dogmatic' Approach to History (Vladimir Gorbunov; SOVETSKAYA KULTURA, 26 Feb 87) ... | 38 |
| Measures Proposed To Eliminate Distortions in Uzbek History (M. Vakhabov; PRAVDA VOSTOKA, 4 Dec 86) | 40 |

MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA

| | |
|--|----|
| Officials Pressure Journalist, Deny Access to Documents (A. Sharafiyev; SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, 7 Jan 87) | 46 |
| New Estonian Journal Raises Controversy (O. Vladimirov; SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA, 27 Nov 86) | 48 |

RELIGION

| | |
|---|----|
| Orthodox Church in Exile, Uniate Millennium Activities Scored (M. Bessonov, M. Chernov; GOLOS RODINY, No 1, 1987) | 50 |
| MSSR Atheist Education Needs Improvement (SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA, 28 Dec 86) | 54 |
| TaSSR: Better Atheist Work Among Youth Urged (R. Alimov; KOMMUNIST TADZHIKISTANA, 21 Dec 86) | 57 |

CULTURE

| | |
|--|----|
| Biography of Mikhail Bulgakov Reviewed (SOVETSKAYA KULTURA, 26 Feb 87) | 61 |
| Writers Discuss Problems of Language Instruction in Latvia (Marina Kostenetskaya, Uldis Berzinsh; LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, 26 Nov 86) | 62 |

SOCIAL ISSUES

| | |
|---|----|
| Returning Emigres Greeted at Sheremetyevo (A. Korobov; GOLOS RODINY, No 52, 1986) | 69 |
| Emigre Returns to USSR from Israel, Scores Life There (A. Fedorov; PRAVDA UKRAINY, 8 Jan 87) | 71 |
| Emigre Returnee Rues Decision to Leave USSR (Z. Safrazyan, Yu. Goldman; ZARYA VOSTOKA, 12 Dec 86) .. | 74 |
| Emigre Returnees Fault Zionists for Luring Them Out of USSR (A. Goldenberg; BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY, 17 Jan 87) | 78 |
| USSR Deputy Prosecutor General Interviewed on Video Crisis (S. Shishkov Interview; PRAVDA, 28 Feb 87) | 82 |
| Lithuanian CC Discusses Social Science Teaching Improvement (SOVETSKAYA LITVA, 11 Dec 86) | 83 |

REGIONAL ISSUES

| | |
|---|----|
| Pollution in Leningrad Oblast Causes Health Problems (SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, 9 Jan 87) | 89 |
| Greater Concern for Environmental Protection Urged (PRAVDA, 10 Jan 87) | 92 |
| Latvian CP CC Reprimands Officials for Falsifying Statistics (SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA, 27 Dec 86) | 95 |

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

SLYUNKOV REPORT ON BSSR SOCIALIST PLEDGES FOR 1987

Minsk Meeting Hears Slyunkov, Discusses Pledges

Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 11 Jan 87 p 1

[Unattributed SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA information report: "Republic Meeting of Activists"]

[Text] A republic meeting of party, soviet, trade union and komsomol activists took place in Minsk on 10 January. It examined the question of "The Socialist Pledges of the BSSR Workers for Successful Fulfillment of the Goals Set for 1987 and for the 12th Five-Year Plan and for a Worthy Greeting of the 70th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution."

Candidate Member of the CPSU Central Committee and First Secretary of the BSSR CP Central Committee N.N. Slyunkov presented a report.

The following persons participated in discussions concerning this report: V.S. Leonov, first secretary of the Mogilev Oblast BSSR CP Committee; I.T. Kosyunkov, a machine operator at the Brest mechanized division (distantiya) for loading and unloading operations and fully-entitled holder of the Order of Glory for Labor; L.N. Nagibovich, BSSR minister of light industry; N.N. Kozhemyakina, a painter at the Gomelpromstroy production association and a professional-group organizer; V.G. Galko, first secretary of the Minsk City BSSR CP Committee; V.I. Chigir, chairman of the administration of the Belorussian Cooperative Union; V.P. Kulakov, Chairman of the Vitebsk Oblast Soviet Executive Committee; I.I. Valko, director of the Grodno sewing factory; and A.D. Drobenya, secretary of the komsomol committee at the Belorussian motor vehicle plant in the city of Zhodino.

The socialist pledges of the BSSR workers for successful fulfillment of the goals set for 1987 and for the 12th Five-Year Plan and for a worthy greeting of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution were approved at the meeting.

Participating in the meeting's work were members and candidate members of the BSSR CP Central Committee Buro, party, soviet, trade union and komsomol workers, and a group of secretaries of party and komsomol organizations,

chairmen of professional committees, economic managers, specialists, outstanding production workers, and representatives of science and culture.

Slyunkov's Report

Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 11 Jan 87 pp 1-3

[Report of the address presented by N. N. Slyunkov at the 10 January 1987 meeting reported above: "On the Socialist Pledges of the Workers of the Belorussian SSR for Successful Fulfillment of the Goals set for 1987 and for the 12th Five-Year Plan and for a Worthy Greeting of the 70th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution"]

[Text] The year 1986, the year of the 27th CPSU Congress, has come to an end. Its significance in the life of the party and of the Soviet people is enormous. Having thoroughly substantiated and deeply elaborated the concept of accelerating the country's social and economic development, put forward by the April 1985 Central Committee Plenum, the congress armed the party and the people with a long-term program for the revolutionary transformation of all aspects of Soviet society. The persistent and consistent realization of this program remains constantly at the center of attention of the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo.

Recent times have seen the passage of a series of large-scale measures of an organizational, social, economic and ideological nature, realization of which will make it possible to activate reserves for our further forward progress.

The past year was a year of activation and expansion of the struggle for new approaches to the solution of international problems and for a new political way of thinking. The important initiatives of the CPSU and the Soviet state aimed at strengthening peace and all-round security, ending the arms race, and eliminating nuclear weapons, found a lively response among the Soviet people and among all peoples of good will and became a real obstacle to the aggressive course of US ruling circles and their allies.

The past year was an important stage in the struggle of the Soviet people to carry out the grandiose tasks set by the party and to realize the goals of the 12th Five-Year Plan. The ideas of the congress are increasingly taking possession of the thoughts of the masses and are being manifested in all areas of human activity. Development rates of all sectors of the national economy were accelerated. The highest rates of growth of national income and industrial production achieved in the 1980's were reached. The program for food production is being consistently accomplished and people's well-being is on the rise.

Economic growth rates also increased in Belorussia. National income grew by 5.9 percent and the volume of industrial production by 7 percent. Labor productivity increased by 6.6 percent in industry and by 6 percent in construction.

There were also advances in the work of rural workers. A meeting of republic activists was held at the end of December, at which the results in this sector

of the economy were analyzed in detail. During the past year, there were increases in both agricultural crop yields and the livestock productivity. The gross output of products grew by 6 percent. Plans for the production of grain, potatoes, sugar beets, vegetables, meat, milk, eggs and wool were fulfilled. Unfortunately, the republic did not manage to meet quotas for provision of flax products.

During the past year, there was a 4 percent increase in the volume of fixed capital put into operation. Goals for the construction of apartment houses, children's preschool institutions, schools, and medical institutions were met. Workers in railroad and motor vehicle transportation, state trade and consumer services fulfilled their plans.

The social orientation of economic development was strengthened. The level of popular consumption grew. The volume of paid services expanded.

Results during the past year testify to the increased labor activity of our people, to their interest in carrying out the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, and to the great organizational and political work of party, soviet, trade union and komsomol organizations. The ranks of leading enterprises and of production innovators have expanded. The personnel of the Minsk refrigerator plant, the machine building plant imeni Kirov and the machine-tool parts plant in Gomel, the Orsha instrument plant, the Borisov tractor electrical equipment plant, the Slutsk sugar refining combine, and the Brest sewing factory imeni Fomin are working with a high degree of productivity.

The following have earned the designation of labor shock troops during the first year of the 12th Five-Year Plan: the cost accounting brigade at the Mogilev Strommashina plant, headed by USSR State Prize winner V. S. Shakhnov, a delegate to the 27th CPSU Congress; the plasterers brigade at Minsk Construction Trust No. 7, which is led by S. E. Bekish; Hero of Socialist Labor A.I. Goroshko, a milling machine operator at the Minsk association imeni Lenin; M.A. Cherepovich, a machinist and tool-maker at the Grodno automatic assembly plant; G.L. Malinets, a stamping machine operator at the Mozyrptitsemash plant; V.I. Tsakovskaya, a knitter at the Brest testing and experimental outerwear knitting factory; A.A. Bartashevich, chief of the mechanics brigade at the Orsha locomotive depot; V.P. Anishchenko, a motor vehicle driver at the Vitebsk Dolomit association; Z.V. Khatskevich a shoemaker at the Bobruisk factory for custom shoemaking and repair, and many, many others.

In the name of the Belorussian CP Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the government of the Belorussian SSR, N.N. Slyunkov expressed heartfelt gratitude to all who are working with enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity, for whom the task of acceleration has become a vital need.

We, the speaker continued, have entered 1987, a year when the party, the Soviet people, and all progressive mankind will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. It is our task to arrive at this notable date having consolidated and increased the tempos reached in the past year.

It is specifically toward this goal that the plan for the economic and social development of the republic during the present year is aimed. The draft socialist pledges for this year and for the five-year plan as a whole, which will be examined today, correspond to this as well. These call for increasing national income by 5.1 percent over the level achieved last year, and by 27.5 percent during the five-year plan, although the plan goal is 26 percent. They envisage a 5.2 percent increase in the output of industrial products, and an increase of 29 percent during the five-year plan, while the plan calls for an increase of 26 percent. Workers in industry are obligating themselves to produce an additional 240 million rubles of output by the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. They intend to fulfill the production volume quotas for next two years by 15 December and those of the five-year plan as a whole by 25 November 1990.

The fate of the five-year plan as a whole will depend to a decisive degree on this year's results. This is why it is necessary to assess critically what has been achieved, to uncover shortcomings and omissions, to extract necessary lessons, and to draw correct conclusions from them.

As Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev noted at a meeting with directors of all-union ministries and departments, emphasis must be placed upon our most important problems when summing up work results -- on accelerating scientific and technical progress, on restructuring, on capital improvement, on a changeover to two- and three-shift work, on more effective utilization of equipment, on introducing new methods of management, and on resolving social matters.

The republic's tasks with regard to accelerating scientific and technical progress were defined by the 30th Belorussian CP Congress and the 2nd Plenum of the Belorussian CP Central Committee. How are they being carried out, what is succeeding, and what is not, where are we lagging behind, and why?

Party and soviet organs and economic managers have begun to concern themselves more responsibly and purposefully with these questions. The most important measures prescribed by last year's "Intensification" plan have been carried out. More than 200 new types of machinery, apparatus and instruments have been assimilated. More than 300 robot-equipped installations, 15 flexible production systems and modules, 22 automated systems for managing technological processes, and 23 automated planning systems have been put into operation, 428 mechanized and automatic lines have been installed, and 220 shops, sectors, and production units have been fully mechanized and automated.

But, to speak figuratively, the ice has just barely begun to move. Last year, as in previous ones, the plan for new technology was not fulfilled. In industry, the share of labor productivity growth as a result of scientific and technical measures came to less than 50 percent.

The situation is no better with regard to retooling and reconstruction of existing production facilities. While the share of capital investments for these purposes increased from 32 to 36.5 percent during the past year, the goal set for the current year is to raise this to 45.4 percent, including an

increase to at least 53 percent in machine building. This growth is appreciable. But this is from a quantitative point of view. And what if we get down to substance, to the qualitative side of this work?

Almost every third plan for the construction and reconstruction of machine building enterprises, that has been checked, fails to correspond to modern-day requirements. Low technical and economic indicators underlie plans for reconstruction and expansion of the Mosyrptitsemash and Lidselmash plants, the Vitebsk tractor spare parts plant, the Zhodino heavy die forging plant, and certain others. The plan for reconstruction and expansion of the Gomel starting-motor plant (Comrades Prokopenko and Shutro) calls for a level of labor productivity in the manufacture of a new motor that is lower than the level that has already been achieved. One can ask: Who needs such reconstruction? The Sovetskiy Rayon party committee (first secretary, Comrade Velichko) and the Gomel city party committee are going along with this approach.

The Council of Ministers and the BSSR State Committee for Construction Affairs need to organize careful analysis of all plans -- both for the reconstruction of existing production facilities and for new construction. The principle should be the same for both: a firm barrier must be raised against everything that does not facilitate fundamental improvement in production efficiency, in its technical level, and in product quality.

The active part of producer goods should be replaced more energetically. The 9.2 percent achieved during the past year is clearly insufficient. During the present year, it is necessary to raise this indicator to 11.7 percent while in machine building, as is noted in the draft pledges, 15-16 percent of equipment should be replaced annually. Are the machine building sectors prepared for this? Far from everywhere. The enterprises of the Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Fodder Production (Minzhivmash) intend to reach only 7 percent, the enterprises of the Ministry of the Automotive Industry (Minavtoprom) -- 8.8 percent, and the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry (Minstankoprom) -- 10.6 percent. The course of equipment replacement should be under the constant supervision of the oblast, city and rayon Belorussian CP committees and of the primary party organizations. Exhaustive measures for achieving the designated limits need to be developed everywhere.

Solution of this problem will depend to a great degree upon the attitude taken toward in-house machine building. Many labor collectives have seriously concerned themselves with this problem. Many, but far from all. At the Brestselmash plant (director, Comrade Machuyev; party organization secretary, Comrade Spirenkov), at the Mozyr land-improvement machinery plant (Comrades Tarasov and Fedorenko) and at the Gorizont (comrades Sanchukovskiy and Sychev) and Gomselmash (Comrades Afanasyev and Barabanov) associations, they plan to accomplish no more than one percent of machine building themselves, which is one-fourth the level envisaged for the republic.

This indicator is low for industry in the Minsk, Mogilev, Brest and Grodno oblasts, for enterprises of the Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances (Minlegpishchemash, and for a number of

republic ministries and departments. Already this year, Republic industry must, at a minimum, reach a level of 1.5 percent, and at machine building enterprises this level must exceed 3 percent.

The situation with regard to the quality of products is a particular cause for alarm. The share of high-quality articles within the total amount subject to certification came to 56.4 percent. This is 3.6 percent lower than pledged and is one percent lower than the 1985 level.

The greatest shortfalls were permitted in the city of Minsk and in Brest Oblast.

The party organizations and the economic managers in the city of Minsk and in Brest, Vitebsk and Mogilev oblasts still have not placed questions of the technical level and quality of output at the center of their practical attention.

There is a persisting practice of proposing production of articles which, in terms of their technical level, fall behind their best world-market analogues. Of 29 designs for new types of production that were checked during the 4th quarter of last year, 25 were inferior to analogous foreign models.

At the Minsk Motorcycle Plant, they have spent four years designing and getting ready to produce a new model motorcycle which was much inferior to a similar Japanese model.

All this is occurring within the sight of the plant's party committee (secretary, Comrade Senokosov) and the Leninskiy Rayon Belorussian CP committee (first secretary, Comrade Rytko).

The managers of the Minsk branch of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Construction Machinery and Instruments, of the Lidselmash plant, the Bobruiskfermmash association, and of the USSR State Committee for Construction Affairs (Gosstroy) Institute for Construction and Architecture also are not improving their methods of work. The products planned and manufactured by these organizations and enterprises are not only inferior to foreign ones, but also do not meet the requirements of Soviet standards and technical conditions.

The Belorussian CP oblast, city and rayon committees must deeply and critically analyze their work in this direction and must precisely define measures for its fundamental improvement.

The Council of Ministers, the BSSR State Planning Committee, and the republic directorate of the USSR State Committee for Standards should more decisively shift over from fixing indicators of quality to exerting an active influence on its improvement, to bringing product quality up to world standards. It is necessary to speed up development of a system for objectively evaluating the technical level of products as compared to first-class foreign accomplishments. Republic and all-union ministries and departments as well as sectoral science must be drawn into this work. Already, during the first half of the current year, objective and skilled comparison must repeatedly be made

of all products which are now being manufactured and which are being developed anew. In the future, such annual comparisons must become the strict rule. Appropriate corrections should be made to the "Quality" program on the basis of the results of this analysis and data received from it should be taken into consideration when developing annual plans. All ministries and associations, enterprises and developmental organizations must have viable plans for halting production or modernization of obsolescent products and for starting up series production of new products.

Only with such an approach and only with effective party influence and control is it possible to solve the most important economic and political problem -- by the end of the five-year plan, to raise the relative share of output meeting world standards to 80-95 percent, and that of new products which are being developed -- to 100 percent.

It is necessary to make maximum use of the possibilities which are connected with the introduction of state acceptance. This is already being implemented at 85 enterprise in the republic and 30 percent of all products being produced are now covered by it. However, not everyone has prepared carefully for it. On the first working day of the present year, products were not even presented for state acceptance at 24 enterprises. These included the Brest electromechanical plant, the Vitebsk tool-and-cutter grinding machine plant, and the Mogilev lift construction plant. At the Minsk sewing association imeni Krupskaya, all articles submitted were rejected, while half of them were rejected at the Mostovdrev association and at the Minsk worsted goods combine. Shipment of output was halted at the Gorizont association and at the Minsk tractor and Elektronika plants.

Party committees and organizations and economic managers must analyze the results of the first days of work under the new conditions and must, without exception, increase their influence on all areas of activity connected with improving the technical level and quality of output.

Science needs to be pointed toward the needs of accelerating development of the republic's economy, of putting it on the path of intensification. Certain changes for the better were noted during the past year. The Physical and Technical Institute of the BSSR Academy of Sciences (director, Comrade Astapchik; party organization secretary, Comrade Kupchenko) is on the right track. The highly effective technology created here is being used at dozens of enterprises. The institute has patented 146 innovations in foreign countries and has concluded 14 licensing contacts and agreements, which have earned it about 1.5 million non-currency (invalyutniy) rubles. The party organization is following a line of greatly differentiating wages depending upon a work results and of increasing the responsibility of scientists for introducing innovations into the production sphere, and has moved, in a principled way, to the certification of personnel.

But such examples are rare. The BSSR Academy of Sciences has failed to create a system for planned scientific support of the development of high-priority sectors of the republic's national economy. The academy's institutes are working in isolation from one another and restructuring has been clearly delayed in many of them. The institutes for solid state physics and

semiconductors, heat and mass exchange, and applied physics are doing an inadequate job of strengthening their ties to practical application. This applies in equal measure to sectoral science and to its plant sector as well, where returns are also low.

The BSSR Council of Ministers (Comrade Kritskiy) needs to ensure precise and effective cooperation between science and the sectors of the republic's national economy and to create an effective mechanism for introducing the results of research into production.

The speaker then turned to problems connected with the utilization of production potential. The managers of certain ministries and departments, referring to various kinds of difficulties, are continuing to underload production capacities.

For the last 3 years, Bobruiskdrev's DVP-2 plant (general director, Comrade Taranov; party committee secretary, Comrade Kazakov), which is outfitted with imported equipment, has not succeeded in achieving its planned capacity. And this year, the BSSR Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry (Minlesbumprom) (Comrade Kravtsov) has made plans calling for a capacity workload of only 89 percent. Neither the party organization of the ministry (secretary, Comrade Dragun) nor the Bobruisk city Belorussian CP committee (city committee first secretary, Comrade Alimbochkov) has demanded from management and specialists an analysis of the reasons for the creation of this situation or a search for ways to eliminate it.

The national economy is also bearing large costs in the utilization of production potential because of shortcomings in improving the assortment and quality of products. The Belorussian Optical Equipment Association (general director, Comrade Zyl; party committee secretary, Comrade Dmitriyev) has been criticized repeatedly for the fact that it has for a long time been increasing its production of cameras with no concern about their quality and technical level. As a result, the customers are not buying them, and this has led to a sharp reduction in production and to an underloading of the capacity that was created for this production. This year, it is planned to operate at only 81 percent of this capacity.

Capacities for the production of silk fabrics, carpets and carpet products at enterprises of the BSSR Ministry of Light Industry are today being 91 percent utilized while those for nonfabric materials are being utilized at 78.5 percent. Why not 100? The ministry's directors explain: buyer demand has declined. What has prevented them from, in the first place, studying and predicting this demand and, in the second, from restructuring production so as to turn out popular products?

This year, as envisaged by the pledges, the capital-output ratio must be increased by 0.2 percent. The changeover of industry to a two- and three-shift system is also subordinate to solution of this problem. This will make it possible to raise the machine-shift coefficient of equipment operation from 1.54 to 1.75 this year and to 1.9 in 1990, including up to 2.3 for machine tools with numerical control (ChPU -- chislovoye programmnoye upravleniye). During the five-year plan, it is necessary to cut 165,000 working places and,

in machine building enterprises alone, to free more than 200,000 square meters of production area.

As examination of this question in the Belorussian CP Central Committee Secretariat has shown, a number of republic ministries and all-union plants have approached this matter in a formalistic way. At enterprises of the Ministry of Highway Construction and Maintenance (Mindorstroy) (Comrade Sharapov), the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources (Minvodkhoz) (Comrade Shakhnovich), and the BSSR Main Administration of the River Fleet (Glavrechflot BSSR) (Comrade Novitskiy), it is envisaged that the equipment machine-shift coefficient this year will range only from 1.1 - 1.5. At many enterprises, the main emphasis is being placed not on the workloads of highly productive equipment, but on purely formalistic redistribution of workers in terms of shifts. Thus, for example, at the Osipov automatic assembly plant, they have planned to operate numerically controlled machine tools with a machine-shift coefficient of 1.6-1.7. This is not good management.

Social problems connected with industry's changeover to increased shift work have not been fully solved. Many complaints are being received concerning the work of public transportation, children's preschool institutions, and trade and consumer services enterprises. Soviet and trade union organizations are responsible for this. They must establish ways to strictly supervise the organization of public catering, trade, consumer services, transportation and medical services and to see that requirements and conditions for worker protection are observed during evening and night shifts.

A second, very important side of increasing the returns from production potential lies in rational utilization of raw-material, fuel and energy, and other material resources. The results of last year have shown that this work has become more specific and systematic. Correct approaches have been worked out in a number of concerned areas. Their practical implementation has begun. Last year's goals for conservation of basic types of resources were fulfilled. On this account, almost half of the increased requirements for raw and other materials have been satisfied.

However, these are only the first steps. This work must be broadened and, most importantly, deepened. The draft pledges for this year call for reducing the material intensity (materialoyemkost) of the gross social product by 1.1 percent, the material intensity of national income by 3.7 percent, and its energy intensity by 2.4 percent. There is a possibility of doing this. Recent discussion of this question in the Belorussian CP Central Committee Buro showed that existing shortcomings and omissions in this area are slowly being eliminated.

Frequently measures are being worked out by a tight circle of directors and specialists, without the participation of primary party organizations and the collective as a whole. In many cases, these measures bear what is basically party organizations and the collective as a whole. In many cases, these measures bear what is basically and of advanced experience.

It is necessary to take a more active approach to improving norm-setting and to perfect strict accounting of resource expenditures. In the BSSR

Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Wood Processing Industry, the planned relative norms for the expenditure of electric power for the production of a ton of cellulose during the second quarter of last year exceeded the expenditures actually made during the corresponding period of the preceding year by more than one-half. Norms for expenditures of fuel and energy resources which are higher than levels already achieved have been approved for many enterprises of the BSSR Ministry of Housing and Municipal Services (Minzhilkomkhoz BSSR).

Basically, experimental statistical norms of energy resource consumption are being used at plants of the Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry (Minelekatrotekhprom), the Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building (Minselkhoz mash), the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry (Minstankoprom) and the Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment and Control Systems (Minpribor). Deputy chairmen of the BSSR Council of Ministers, comrades Petrol and Firisanov, and the directors of oblast soviet executive committees must move on from debates on this theme to concrete actions.

We also can not agree with references to the unavailability of instruments for calculating thermal power, of valve-regulation equipment, and of hot water meters. This is a long-familiar problem. We cannot wait for them to be centrally supplied. The Council of Ministers should arrange without delay for their manufacture at BSSR enterprises.

As formerly, poor use is being made of secondary energy resources, of everyday trash. Only 2 percent of total fuel requirements are being satisfied in the BSSR by use of secondary energy resources. Many managers are underestimating the pressing nature of this problem. As far back as 1984, the Belpromproyekt institute developed technical solutions for the utilization of secondary heat in five Belorussian SSR industrial centers, which permitted an annual savings of about 120,000 tons of standard fuel. A proposal in this regard was sent to the oblast soviet executive committee in January 1985. However, up until now, the Minsk, Brest, Grodno, and Mogilev soviet executive committees have not begun to implement it.

The speaker noted further that the draft pledges stipulate high indicators for increased labor productivity. In Industry, this must be increased by 5 percent and, during the five-year plan, by not less than 29 percent, as against the 26 percent called for in the plan; in construction, productivity is to be increased by 4.1 percent and the five-year quota is to be overfulfilled by not less than 5 percentage points.

A special demand must be made of the directors and party organizations of enterprises, which are failing to cope with plans for increasing labor productivity. In 1984 there were 64 such collectives, in 1985 -- 90, and last year -- 88. In Vitebsk oblast (party committee secretary, Comrade Gutnikov; deputy chairman of the oblast soviet executive committee, Karalev), the number of enterprises lagging behind grew from 6 in 1984 to 17 in the past year. In Brest (blast) comrades Zalomay and Krasitskiy), this number went from 11. One out of every ten enterprises is failing to meet the goals for increased labor productivity in Mogilev Oblast (comrades Konovalov and Kulichkov) and in

the Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry (Minstroyaterialov) (Comrade Bildyukevich); this is one out of every eight in the BSSR Ministry of Local Industry (Minmestprom BSSR) (Comrade Kostikov).

It is necessary to increase the struggle against losses of working time. This problem has two aspects. First is the further strengthening of discipline. Far from all of our personnel have accepted this requirement. Because of this, every fourth enterprise in the Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry, the Ministry of Light Industry and the State Committee for the Fish Industry, and every third enterprise in the Ministry of Local Industry and the BSSR Ministry of the Fuel Industry (Mintopprom BSSR) permitted an increase in losses of per capita working time.

The second aspect is illness and absence to care for sick children. Figured on a per capita basis, about 9 man days were lost during the past year for these reasons and in Minsk, Vitebsk Oblast, and the Ministry of Construction (Minstroy) this figure was even larger. This clearly demonstrates deficient work on the part of trade unions, public health and physical culture and sports organs, and children's preschool institutions. Improvement in the conditions of labor and in labor protection at work, in preventive and curative and in physical culture and sanitary work among the population, and in child nurseries and kindergartens -- this is the way to achieve a sharp reduction in losses of working time. And this must be addressed in a realistic, party-like way.

During the past year, there was an increase in the number of cities and rayons where industry achieved high rates of production growth with a small number of workers. Grodno, Bobruisk, Mozyr, Orsha, Pinsk, and Rechitsa are already working on the basis of Minsk's experience. At the same time, for republic industry as a whole, the number of personnel grew by 5,900 persons. Personnel limits were raised in the Brest, Minsk and Mogilev oblasts, altogether at 170 enterprises. A third of the collectives did not meet goals for reducing numbers by 2-3 percent at existing production facilities.

It must be made absolutely clear to everyone that we can move to new, higher wage rates and salary scales only on the basis of funds which are earned by the labor collectives themselves.

A great deal remains to be done before strict observance of contract discipline is achieved everywhere. During the past year, the plan for deliveries was only 99.6 percent fulfilled. Most of the enterprises which to meet their contract obligations were in the Ministry of Local Industry, the Ministry of Construction and the BSSR Ministry for the Construction Materials Industry, and in Mogilev and Brest oblasts. The greatest delivery shortfalls in terms of volume are occurring at the Gomselmash association, the Minsk computer equipment association, the Brest association for computer equipment, the Pinsk association for forging, pressing and foundry automatic lines, the Lida Lakokraska association, and the Vitebsk television plant. Analysis shows that the main reasons for this are an irresponsible attitude toward this matter and lack of organizational and technical coordination internally. The ministries and departments and the party committees must take a look at every enterprise which violates contract discipline. Beginning this year, 100-

percent fulfillment of the plan for deliveries has become a basic criterion for evaluating the activity of labor collectives.

In capital construction, on the average, the time periods necessary for the construction of projects has been reduced by 3 months, or by 7 percent. The level of uncompleted construction was reduced to 52 percent, as against a norm level of 62. However the plan for placing fixed capital into operation was only 87 percent fulfilled. Building workers did not meet their goals for construction of clubs and palaces of culture.

In the republic last year, more than 100 large projects were not completed on schedule, including more than 60 of the Ministry of Construction. Almost one trust out of every four failed to meet its plan for contract work. Belselstroy (Comrade Kichkaylo), Glavpolesyevodstroy (Comrade Titov), and a number of other contracting organizations failed to cope with the program for putting projects into operation.

For certain of them, systematic failure to fulfill plans has practically become the norm. Thus, Orsha Trust No. 18 of the Ministry of Construction (manager, Comrade Savchenko; party committee secretary, Comrade Ivulin), which worked poorly during the last five-year plan, failing to complete 15 projects, last year only fulfilled its plan for contract work by 83 percent and its plan for labor productivity by 88 percent. Restructuring of the trust's work, it appears, also has not yet been begun. The production base there is not being developed and the workers have not been organized on the basis of a collective contract. No concern is being shown for the people, for improving the conditions of their labor, everyday life and recreation. The fact that the trust has been renovating its own house of culture for four years running and the end of repairs is not yet in sight testifies eloquently to this. And what about the Orsha city party committee? Its repeated attempts to correct the situation have not ended in success. This means that they have selected the wrong methods.

The completion of projects within planned time periods remains the problem of problems. The tasks set by the 30th Belorussian CP Congress are being poorly accomplished: During the past year, almost half of the projects built by the Ministry of Construction and more than a third of those built by the Belorussian Administration for Agricultural Construction (Belselstroy) took longer than the prescribed time to complete. What is wrong? First of all, that the managers of construction ministries and departments and their component elements as well as certain local party and soviet organs are in no hurry to distance themselves from the stereotypes that have developed in the past.

It is necessary to put an end to dissipation of effort and funds and to focus them on priority projects which are scheduled for completion. Thus, last year's construction plan for the agro-industrial complex included 29,000 projects, including 17,000 new ones which were to be started. And, although it was planned to complete only half of these, work was carried out on almost all of these projects. This result of this dissipation of effort was that, although Belselstroy overfulfilled its construction plan as a whole by almost

81 million rubles, it failed to meet goals for the completion of more than 30 planned projects.

The collective contract system must be instituted to the fullest extent. The Vitebsk agricultural construction combine (chief, Comrade Sverdlov; party organization secretary, Comrade Dokutko) has already been operating for two years on the basis of this method. During this period, labor productivity increased by 23 percent. Last year's goal for the volume of contract work was fulfilled in October. A total of 35 projects were completed, including 7 above the plan. However, as a whole, this important work has been begun only at one construction unit out of every five. During the current year, the collective contract should be introduced in all construction organizations.

The needs of the national economy and the population for transportation of freight have begun to be satisfied more fully. Railroad workers, truck drivers, and rivermen hauled almost 23 million tons of freight above plan goals. The situation is not as good with regard to implementing the plan for the mix of freight carried. It was 88.9 percent fulfilled by the Administration of the Belorussian Railroad and by 92.5 percent by the Ministry of Transportation. By the same token, the transport workers are creating serious difficulties in the work of industrial enterprises, construction organizations and other sectors of the national economy. Comrades Andreyev and Borodin must devote priority attention to these questions.

As before, both the transportation workers and the enterprises which they serve are permitting above-norm rolling stock idle time. Every fifth station on the railroad is failing to meet established norms. Among them are the Vitebsk, Mogilev, and Brest-North stations. Last year, more than 300,000 cars were held up longer than the stipulated time at the republic's enterprises. A particularly large number of such enterprises belong to the BSSR ministries of Housing and Municipal Services, Light Industry, Local Industry, and Grain Products.

And how has this year started out? During the first 7 days alone, the republic's enterprises failed to supply more than 6,000 carloads-worth of freight scheduled to be hauled by rail transport. This resulted in incomplete loading of about 500 cars carrying construction materials, 470 cars carrying agricultural machinery, 400 cars with industrial and food products, 230 cars with scrap metal, 112 cars with machine tools, and 105 cars with tires. The Minsk Tractor Plant and the Gomselmash, Bobruiskshina, and Bobruiskfermmash associations are shipping their products out sporadically. Because of poor organizational work, more than 600 cars were not unloaded on a timely basis, almost a third of them in Mogilev oblast. The directors of ministries, departments and enterprises must take urgent steps to ensure that product shipments are made strictly on schedule and railroad cars are unloaded promptly.

There needs to be a basic improvement in passenger service. During the past year, more than one percent of the passenger trains failed to keep to movement schedules. One percent of bus runs were not completed. Only 88.4 percent of plane flights were on schedule.

In order to increase the effectiveness of production, N.N. Slyunkov said, all personnel must work more persistently to master economic management methods. In recent years, economic work has assumed increased vitality at many enterprises and organizations. This has facilitated introduction of the new management methods. During the first 11 months of last year, expenditures per ruble of commodity production in industry were reduced by 1.2 percent. About 90 million rubles were saved above the planned amount. In comparison with the year before, income in the national economy grew by 12.2 percent, including an increase of 12.6 percent in industry.

However, not all enterprise directors, specialists, and middle-level employees are looking upon the economic decisions which are being made through the prism of economic analysis. The principle of "the plan at any price" has not died out everywhere. For the first 11 months of last year, the plan for income was not fulfilled as a whole by the Ministry of Construction, by the BSSR State Committee for the Fish Industry, by one out of 6 enterprises in industry and by one out of every 4 construction and installation organizations.

There are many additional unprofitable enterprises and organizations in construction, communications, and municipal and consumer services.

The Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Services, the BSSR Ministry of Highway Construction and Maintenance, and enterprises of the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry, the Minzhivmash (not further identified; possibly Ministry of Machine Building for the Livestock Industry), the Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances, and the Ministry of Agricultural Machine Building have not met their goals for reducing the prime cost of industrial output.

It is necessary to close off all channels for nonproductive expenditures. This year, we must reduce the prime cost of industrial production for the republic as a whole by 1.1 percent. Our goal is for each enterprise not only to ensure that this is met, but also to achieve an above-plan reduction of at least 0.2 percent.

In order to activate all reserves for raising production efficiency, fuller use should be made of the possibilities to be found in the new economic mechanism.

From the start of this year, all sectors of industry have changed over to the new conditions of work. Ministries and departments, the oblast soviet executive committees and the economic managers must make better use at every enterprise of the economic levers and stimuli envisaged by them, must transform them into a system of intra-production economic accountability, and must bring them to the notice of every sub-unit, of every worker. Particular attention needs to be given to raising the cost accounting responsibility of the primary collectives -- of shops, sectors, and brigades. It is necessary to proceed more boldly to an expansion of their independence and rights and to the transfer of a part of economic functions downward from above.

Beginning this year, the enterprises of the Ministry of Consumer Services (Minbyt), the Ministry of Trade (Mintorg), the Belorussian Cooperative Union (Belkoopsoyuz), two enterprises of the BSSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry (Minstroyaterialov BSSR) and 29 plants of all-union subordination have shifted over to full cost accounting and self-financing. In the republic's light industry, consumer services and trade, a closer dependence between the results of work and the pay received for it is being worked out experimentally for the first time. The rule that "what you have earned, you can then make use of, having first given a share to the state" is becoming the most important thing. The State Planning Committee and the BSSR Ministry of Finance, together with the sectoral ministries and other economic departments, and with the republic's scientific institutions should give the enterprises needed methodological assistance, should systematically analyze and examine the progress of the experiment and the effectiveness of the new economic levers, and should introduce proposals for their improvement.

The speaker analyzed in detail the state of affairs in the social sphere. The plan for consumer goods production was 103.1 percent fulfilled and additional articles worth more than 500 million rubles were produced. The best results were achieved in Brest and Gomel oblasts and in the city of Minsk. Vitebsk Oblast is lagging behind the goals of the republic's complex program for developing consumer goods production and the services sphere. A total of 47 enterprises failed to fulfill plans for consumer goods production. In Minsk oblast, there were more of them than in 1985. The volume of consumer goods produced fell at 124 enterprises. The largest numbers of such plants and factories are found in Minsk and Gomel oblasts and in the BSSR Ministry of Local Industry.

During the past year, the growth rates of commodity turnover and paid services volumes somewhat exceeded the growth rate of the cash incomes of the population. It is necessary to consolidate and to strengthen this tendency. During a visit to the BSSR, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade A. P. Biryukova made a thorough analysis of the work of the republic's party organization with regard to the production of consumer goods and also with regard to improving trade in the services sphere. By 15 January, the BSSR Council of Ministers is to submit to the Belorussian CP Central Committee a detailed plan of measures in response to the critical notes and advice made by her and aimed at basically improving the state of affairs in this area of work. What is particularly important in this regard?

The results of the past year have shown that the complex program needs serious additional work. Missing within it are specific principles for drawing up contracts and for planning the production of goods, which will make it possible to take into consideration the needs of all categories and groups of the population.

In many cases the narrow bureaucratic approach of the directors of the Ministry of Light Industry, the Ministry of Local Industry, and the BSSR State Committee for the Agricultural-Industrial Complex (Gosagroprom BSSR) has won out, and this has led to shortages of many goods, particularly of children's clothing and footwear, nonalcoholic drinks and mineral water, canned vegetables, and macaroni and confectionery items.

Also not reflected in the complex program are consumer needs for goods which are in greater demand in connection with the course that has been set toward a sober life style and in connection with the decisions made to double the construction of housing at collective and state farms, to increase the building of individual homes, and to actively develop collective and market gardening within the republic in the course of the five-year plan.

The complex program's goals for expanding product variety must be based on a well-balanced assortment concept and must point the ministries, departments, and enterprises in the direction of satisfying the needs of various population groups -- children, adolescents, young people, older people, gardeners, individuals building their own homes, sportsmen, tourists, and so on.

Taking account of this, the BSSR Council of Ministers must, in January, define the additional goals for this year, must work out an assortment concept for the period to 1990 and, on its basis, must during the first quarter refine the indicators of the complex program.

The BSSR Council of Ministers and the oblast, city and rayon party committees need to give sharply increased attention to the saturation of the market with consumer products by the directors of all-union enterprises. There also is no justification for the fact that many group "A" plants have planned for the establishment of specialized shops and sectors only at the end of the five-year plan. This shows clear negligence by the Council of Ministers and BSSR State Planning Committee, which failed to intercede promptly and to correct the situation.

Every enterprise must be examined. It is necessary to be guided by one thing: by the end of the five-year plan, every nonspecialized enterprise must ensure production of consumer goods in the same amount as its wage fund.

But it is not only a matter of quantity. An even more pressing problem is the quality of consumer goods.

This year, the Ministry of Light Industry is being called upon to renew the assortment of products by not less than 70 percent and to increase the relative share of products with the index "N" and classified as particularly stylish, which are sold on the basis of contract prices, to 36 percent of the total volume of production. It is important to arrange things so that the "conveyor line" running from the fashion house -- to manufacture -- to the store operates precisely and without interruptions. This not yet the case. Many good-quality clothing and footwear models developed by the designers are not ending up being produced. And if they do end up in production, they try, as a rule, to simplify them, which naturally lowers the aesthetic and consumer qualities of the articles.

Economic managers need to formulate a plan of specific measures to bring products up to the level of the best world models -- to select an analogous article, to make a thorough comparative analysis, and to set time periods for this work. The retooling of these sectors must be speeded up. In order to raise the technical level of individual production sectors, particularly

sewing, wider use should be made of the possibilities of machine building enterprises. The BSSR Council of Ministers must study this problem and approve appropriate decisions.

Under the conditions of the new economic mechanism, the trade network must exercise a more effective influence on product quality. Better use must be made of such an important lever as the contract prices for especially stylish articles. Already this year, it is necessary to open firm stores selling competitive-quality goods in all oblast centers.

The BSSR Council of Ministers must organize collaborative work between the ministries which produce consumer goods and kindred departments in the CEMA member countries.

The development of trade also continues to fall seriously behind the vital demands of the workers. In the past year, plans for retail turnover were systematically underfulfilled. And only in December, at the price of incredibly great effort, did they succeed in making up the lag which had earlier been allowed to develop and, for the republic as a whole, to fulfill the annual goals. However, the Belorussian Cooperative Union (Comrade Chigir) and Grodno and Brest oblasts did not meet them. The Belorussian Cooperative Union and the Ministry of Trade are moving slowly to restructure the management style and methods of their branches. We have particularly serious grievances with regard to consumer cooperatives.

Here is a typical example of the organization of trade in the countryside. The Novogrudskiy Rayon Consumer Union (board chairman, Comrade Khrishchanovich; party organization secretary, Comrade Buyak) failed to fulfill its plan for commodity turnover beginning with the month of March and allowed a shortfall of 1.2 million rubles for the year as a whole. At the same time, they didn't take a total of 354,000 rubles worth of centrally-distributed goods. The annual quota for purchases of meat products was 85 percent fulfilled and that for fruit -- only 36 percent. Many stores were closed for long periods of time because of a lack of sales personnel and because time periods set for carrying out inventories were exceeded. Quite often, products needed by the population were not in the stores, although there were sufficient supplies of them in the republic. In 70 villages with a population of 7,400 residents, there is no permanent trade network. At the same time, 490 residences are standing empty, which could be used as stores. There are no cafeterias at 6 farms.

The rayon soviet executive committee (chairman, Comrade Turok) is showing little concern about the situation that has developed. The same goes for the city party committee (city party committee first secretary, Comrade Bondyuk). For a year they have not found the time to thoroughly examine the reasons for the permitted failures and have not once discussed this important social problem.

It is necessary in the very near future to make a thorough analysis of the results achieved during the past year by each cooperative organization and to uncover and eliminate the causes which are slowing down their development in accordance with the program that has been established.

Without exception, stores must be set up in all villages which do not now have them. There are now 11,400 such villages. This must be done during this year, for the most part during its first half, by means of equipping empty residences, of which there are 53,000 in the republic, as stores and by opening shops in homes.

Last year the republic fulfilled its plans and pledges for the sale of paid services. The indicators set for this year call for an increase over the goals of the complex plan. It would, however, be incorrect to think that meeting this year's limits and pledges will completely satisfy people's requirements. Examination by the Belorussian CP Central Committee Buro of the work done by the Mogilev Oblast Belorussian CP Committee to carry out this program and analysis of the situation in other oblasts shows that far from all enterprises and organizations have been enlisted in the work of furnishing services.

Certain economic managers have no desire to burden themselves with additional concerns, and many city and rayon soviet executive committees have basically not involved themselves in developing this sphere.

Party committees must make both economic and soviet workers strictly accountable for their activity in this area and must ensure rigid supervision of the development of the services sphere in every labor collective. The BSSR Supreme Soviet Presidium must take steps to monitor these questions.

The work of everyday services enterprises is producing a good deal of complaint from the population. The situation where the customer must approach them bowing and scraping, and not vice versa, must be fundamentally changed. Broad possibilities for this are opened by the changeover this year of BSSR Ministry of Consumer Affairs enterprises to economic accountability and self-financing and also by passage of the Law on Individual Labor Activity. More active use should be made of the contract form of organizing and paying for work and a network of cooperatives should be created, with their activities focused first of all on developing those services for which demand is still not being satisfied.

There has been no basic improvement in planning and organizing construction projects intended for social purposes. The housing problem continues to be acute. The task of expanding construction through the use of organizations' own resources [khozyaystvennyy sposob], which was set by the 2nd Plenum of the Belorussian CP Central Committee, is being realized slowly. Last year, this method's relative share in the construction of city housing came to only 2.6 percent. It was still lower in Vitebsk, Minsk and Brest oblasts and in the city of Minsk.

Many economic managers are citing all sorts of difficulties in place of actively introducing this method. Yes, there are many difficulties. But it is necessary act boldly to overcome them. The collective of the Mozyr Meliormash plant, by making rational use of above-plan deductions to incentive funds and increasing funds for developing the production base of its construction sector, intends to complete almost 30,000 square meters of

housing space by 1993 and, at the same time, to provide every family with a separate apartment. Moreover, half of the living space will be constructed using its own resources.

The collective of the Brest department of the railroad has fixed an even more compressed schedule -- to provide every family with a private apartment as early as the end of the present five-year plan. Last year alone, they built 415 apartments here, 278 of them by using their own resources. Special construction groups have been established at all the department's enterprises. Every brigade, every shop has delegated its own comrades to the groups, having taken on the obligation to carry out their shift assignments for them. Future new home owners are being recruited to take part in their construction. Through their own efforts, the department's personnel are putting up a 400-bed hospital and a children's nursery and kindergarten.

The party organizations and the economic managers of these collectives have discovered correct approaches to solving this problem. They have succeeded in mobilizing practically all workers for this. The BSSR Council of Ministers and the Belorussian Trade Unions Council (Belsovprof) should organize broad publicity of this experience.

This year, it is necessary to increase the volume of construction accomplished on the basis organizations' own resources by not less than 1.4-fold.

Cooperative housing construction must be developed more energetically. Last year almost 40,000 square meters of planned living space was not completed. The quota for individual construction was not met. In Mogilev, Vitabsk and Gomel oblasts, it was fulfilled by 33, 47 and 53 percent respectively. This year, the volume of cooperative housing construction must be increased by 18 percent. The plan for completing individual apartment houses will also grow.

The State Planning Committee, the State Committee for Construction, the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, the ministries and departments, and the soviet executive committees must resolve questions relating to issuing plans, assigning plots of land for apartment buildings, and allocating necessary funds on a more timely basis. Wider use needs to be made of the initiative of the city of Novopolotska and of Brest and Mogilev oblasts in the creation of temporary brigades in order to accelerate construction tempos of apartment buildings, schools, nurseries, hospitals, sports facilities and other projects.

Development of the social sphere must continue to be monitored constantly by the ministries and departments and by local soviet and party organs. Solution of these problems is an indication of how personnel are working, and indicator of restructuring.

The fate of the pledges which we will ratify today, noted N.N. Slyunkov further, will depend upon the labor energy and creative initiative of our people and on their attitude in this regard.

Party, soviet, trade union and Komsomol organizations must bring restructuring to every working place; they must ensure that every worker has a good understanding of his own possibilities and reserves and that he uses them with maximum result for accelerating the social and economic development of the country.

Communists must set an example in the struggle to carry out our plans and pledges. The party organizations have the obligation to conduct their work in such a way that every CPSU member becomes a leader in all that is new and progressive, an initiator of the search for nonstandard solutions and approaches. Only by ensuring that communists play a vanguard role will it be possible for the party organizations to enlist the entire collective, all social organizations, and all personnel in the work of intensifying production, raising the technical level and quality of output, and strengthening economy procedures. The ways in which the party organizations can exert an influence on all aspects of the life of labor collectives were thoroughly examined at the 4th Plenum of the Belorussian CP Central Committee. To implement the full scope of its decisions will mean to accelerate the restructuring process.

The Soviets of people's deputies, whose rights and possibilities in solving social and economic problems have been increased immeasurably, need to put every tool to work in order to increase the social and political activity level of the workers. It is already time for soviet organs to assume full responsibility for the solution of all matters within their territory, particularly problems of social development and of satisfying people's everyday needs.

The work of the trade unions must be fundamentally improved. They are making poor use of the possibilities they have for influencing successful plan fulfillment. They are not properly occupying themselves with formulating pledges, providing a justification for them,, and organizing their fulfillment. They are slow in freeing themselves of obsolescent approaches to socialist competition and are weak in purging it of formalism, conventionalism, and routine. The trade unions are called upon to demonstrate great purposefulness and persistence in defending the legal rights of the workers, to concern themselves with improving the conditions of their labor, everyday life, and recreation, and to actively resolve all social questions within the labor collectives.

The Komsomol organization should involve itself more energetically in the sociopolitical and production processes. It is necessary to reach a point where every primary Komsomol organization has its own specific, urgent mission, fulfillment of which would make a worthy contribution to the results of our work as a whole.

We expect more objective discussion from the mass information media of how restructuring is proceeding in party organizations and labor collectives. They must more actively play their role as collective organizers.

The socialist pledges for this year, said N. N. Slyunkov in conclusion, are very intensive. They demand from each of us, from all of the republic's workers, a maximum personal working effort, work that is characterized by creativity, initiative, selflessness and inspiration. This year is an anniversary year. And it is our duty to greet this remarkable date in the life of the party and the Soviet people in the way which it deserves and, in so doing, to make our contribution to carrying out the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, to accelerating the social and economic development of our country.

13032

CSO: 1800/293

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

GRISHKYAVICHUS SPEAKS AT LITHUANIAN TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 25 Jan 87 pp 1-2

[Speech given by P. P. Grishkyavichus, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, at the 14th Lithuanian Trade Union Congress: "Trade Unions--A School for Training in Political and Production Activity"]

[Text] Dear comrades! In the name of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, allow me to heartily greet the 14th Congress of the republic's trade unions and its delegates, and to wish you success in your work. Your congress is being held at a very crucial period. At the will of the party, a truly historical reorganization is expanding ever more broadly and gaining strength. The process of renovation, which is taking place in the spirit of the decisions of the April (1985) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the 27th Party Congress, encompasses all aspects of the life of society. Ever broader masses of workers are being included in the huge and intense task directed at accelerating the economic and social development of the country.

Today we can say that the great work of the party and the unity of efforts by the Soviet people are already yielding fruit. From the summaries of fulfillment of the USSR State Plan for Economic and Social Development for the first year of the five-year plan as published in the press, it is already evident that the negative tendencies of reduction in the country's development are being overcome. In almost all sectors of social production this rate has increased, and in some directions the level of the average annual five-year tasks was achieved last year. Social policy is being more actively implemented and the material base of the social-cultural sphere is being strengthened.

These positive shifts are noticeable also in our republic. All sectors of the national economy have fulfilled the basic indicators of the plan for the first year of the five-year plan.

And yet the generally positive results which have been achieved cannot satisfy us. The internal reserves for growth and intensification of social production have not been fully utilized everywhere. New capacities presented by the reorganization of the economic management mechanism and management methods are also being weakly realized. Last year 8 industrial associations and enterprises did not fulfill their plans for the realization of commodity production. Seven did not fulfill their plans for increasing labor productivity and 15 did not fulfill their contract agreements for delivery of products. The planned crop

The most important party directive to the trade unions is to show untiring concern for the implementation of the social policy developed by the 27th Party Congress. It is particularly important to give constant attention to improving the housing conditions of the workers.

It is completely intolerable that there are still cases of disruption of the principles of social fairness in housing assignments. The party Central Committee and the republic Council of Ministers still receive numerous letters on these questions. The people complain that even now in some places there is no openness in housing assignments and that the right of participation of the labor collectives in resolving these questions is still weakly realized. The CPSU Central Committee demanded and continues to demand that not a single instance of social injustice be overlooked, but that it receive a strict principal evaluation. The trade union organizations must take a firm and uncompromising position on this question.

Improving working conditions is another extremely important question. The party and the government give constant attention to labor production. In the elapsed five-year plan, 615 million rubles were spent in the republic for these purposes. However, the rate of illness of workers and work-related illness, including fatalities, are slow in declining. Many workers still labor under difficult and unhealthful conditions, including one out of four women. There are even more women working under such conditions, at enterprises of the building materials industry and the chemical and petroleum processing industry. This intolerable situation has arisen because certain economic managers pay little attention and strive to turn out production at any cost. The trade union organizations, the republic committees and Trade Union Council, as well as the Ministry of Health, are in turn passive and act in an unprincipled manner, reconciling themselves with such disorder. The most decisive measures must be taken to correct the situation which has arisen.

The republic committee of the trade union for workers in the agroindustrial complex must also take a more aggressive position on the question of improving labor conditions. Many mechanical shops are poorly equipped and not adequately heated, especially in the current severe winter. Many of them and some of the livestock raising farms have no acceptable rest rooms, shower facilities or even changing rooms. The republic's Gosagroprom managers are still slow in reorganizing and show little concern for people. They begin every farm campaign with seminars, conferences and meetings. What do they talk about there? They talk about machines, livestock, weight increases, and other production matters. But you will almost never hear anything about the people who create all of this and about the need for improving their labor conditions. Yet the solution of any farm management problem should start with this.

Both the Republic Trade Union Council and the party organs should give greater attention to the activity of the trade union for workers of the agroindustrial complex, since it is the organization with the largest membership. This is particularly important in regard to the kolkhoz trade union organizations, which have been in existence for a relatively short time and do not have sufficient experience and traditions in trade union activity.

We must better organize the leisure time and resort-sanatorium treatment of the workers and expand and improve its material base. Isn't it too much of a luxury

yield of grain cultures has not been achieved. Matters are improving slowly in regard to kolkhozes and sovkhoses which lag behind. Thus, at 57 farms the average milk yield per cow did not reach even 3,000 kilograms. Many of these farms still do a poor job in fattening cattle for meat production. There are also other shortcomings and omissions towards whose correction we must continue to direct all our efforts. We must continue to speed up in every way the rate of development of all sectors of the national economy and increase the effectiveness of social production.

In this crucial period as never before it is important to increase the political and labor activity of the workers. We must help every person recognize the revolutionary character of the reorganization and gain an in-depth understanding of the fact that there is no other road to accelerating progress, nor can there be, as comrade M. S. Gorbachev repeatedly stressed.

A peculiar role in this complex matter belongs to the trade unions. They have been granted extensive rights, which they should use as actively as possible.

"For the trade unions, social policy and the interests of the workers must always be of primary importance," stressed comrade M. S. Gorbachev at the 27th CPSU Congress. They must work with all responsibility, mobilize the workers toward fulfillment of the national economic plans, expand socialist competition, strengthen discipline, and increase labor productivity. The trade unions and their elective organs must be more goal oriented and persistent in defending the lawful interests of the worker. They must be concerned about labor protection and safety technology, about construction and operation of health treatment institutions, sports facilities, club and children's institutions, and must make a greater contribution to the implementation of social policy on the whole.

These are the basic landmarks which should serve as guides to the trade union organs in the reorganization of their activity.

The life-giving effect of the reorganization taking place in the country and in our republic has already noticeably touched upon many spheres of trade union life. This is confirmed also by the course of our present Congress. It is the scene of concerned and demanding discussions on the most current questions.

However, many rayon and republic committees, as well as the Republic Council of Trade Unions, are still slow in reorganizing their work in light of the new requirements. Often their voice is not yet heard, and the necessary influence is not felt in the labor collectives. The trade unions often lose sight of such vitally important questions as the organization of socialist competition, the struggle for quality labor and production, the introduction of progressive forms of organization of labor and wages, the strengthening of discipline, and the improvement of conditions for labor, recreation and everyday life of the workers.

These shortcomings would be fewer if the trade union organizations were more decisive in reorganizing the style and methods of their work. Many of them still firmly adhere to outdated canons and incorrect assumptions and cannot make the psychological changeover to working in a new manner, to viable socialization with the people. Real life organizational work is still often replaced by artificial slogans which do not excite anyone. The trade union committees not only put up a weak struggle against bureaucratism and red tape but very often they

insulate themselves from the people with a wall of paperwork, with promises and with form letters. Unfortunately, there are also some trade union workers who strive to get on the good side of the collective managers by any means possible. They prefer to maintain good relations with them at all costs and do not raise any acute questions or sore points. The speaker and the delegates discussed this problem in detail at the congress. Indeed--everyone must participate in the reorganization--from the worker to the minister. Everyone in his own place must do everything conscientiously, without sparing effort or energy, imbuing oneself with a sense of great responsibility to one's own conscience, to one's co-workers, and to the party and the people.

The primary task set by life and by the decisions of the 27th Party Congress is the struggle for the successful implementation of a strategic party course toward accelerating the country's economic and social development.

First of all, we must strengthen the effectiveness of socialist competition. We can no longer reconcile ourselves with the fallacious practice which has become established in some places. This is the practice of remembering about competition only when it is time to prepare and accept responsibilities, and then again when it is time to compile summaries. Up until now, the party and the trade union organizations have not become as involved as they should be in control over the course of competition, its publicity, or promulgation of the experience of leading workers.

We must put an end to formalism in competition. Its main criteria must be high quality production indicators, and primarily quality of labor and production.

To solve the problem of quality and to accelerate on this basis the intensification of the economy--this is how the party today formulates the question and takes decisive measures on its energetic solution. Since the beginning of the year, state certification has been introduced at 41 of the largest industrial enterprises in the republic. Low quality products are not accepted, and wages are not paid for it. However, the workers of the state certification service must work hand in hand with the collectives. They must not only reject inferior goods, but must also help in correcting technological shortcomings.

The trade union active membership must wage a more persistent struggle against disruptions of production and labor discipline, against drunkenness and alcoholism. They must instill in every worker a respect for his enterprise, his shop and his work brigade. Unsparing publicity must be given to those who are negligent or those who produce flawed goods, as well as to those who break the social order. There can be no place for liberalism and permissiveness here.

The party and government resolution on improving the system of wages in the sphere of production will play a great role. Wages will increase on a principally new basis--depending on the economic activity of the collectives and at the expense of the means which they have earned. This most significant social measure will affect over 1 million of the republic's workers in the current five-year plan. And the faster the work of the enterprises will improve and the effectiveness of production and product quality will grow, the sooner the new wage system will go into effect. The party and trade union organizations both must constantly keep this problem within their field of vision.

to maintain seasonal summer holiday homes? This relates primarily to departmental holiday rest homes and sanatorium type preventative health treatment centers which in many cases are used only 2-3 months out of the year. It is also necessary to improve services to sanatorium patients and guests at holiday homes.

It is important to increase the role of collective agreements. In many cases, due to negligence on the part of the trade unions, these collective agreements do not include questions of working conditions and labor protection, sanitary and health measures, and if provision is made for them the farm managers do not always fulfill them. This is particularly true of the republic's Gosagroprom, whose managers often simply ignore the demands of the trade unions on these questions.

The trade union organs have been called upon to express constant concern also for the development of mass cultural work. Nevertheless, we find such phenomena here which we cannot reconcile ourselves with. There are no clubs at almost 100 enterprises and organizations, despite the fact that they each employ 1,000 or more workers. Every second trade union club is located on enterprise territory and is, as a rule, closed on weekends and holidays. Some republic trade union committees do not fully assimilate the funds allocated for the development of mass cultural work and sports, or spend them for other purposes. In a word, the trade unions must more actively resolve the questions of development of mass cultural work, physical culture and sports. In doing so, they must work in closer cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the Committee on Physical Culture and Sports.

There would be much fewer shortcomings and problems in the work of the trade unions if the primary party organizations and party gorkoms and raykoms paid more attention to them and managed their activity more specifically and in a business-like manner.

There are currently 58,000 party members working in the elected trade union organs, and two-thirds of the chairmen of trade union committees are communists. This is a huge army whose activity determines the activity of the trade unions to a large degree.

The party gorkoms and raykoms must put an end to the practice of promoting to trade union work those workers who have not earned trust through party, soviet or economic management work. Isn't this where the underestimation of the role of the trade unions begins? We believe that more young communists and energetic people should be promoted to trade union work. Let them, acting among the masses, go through the schooling of work with the people. Then, if they show abilities as organizers, they can be promoted to management, soviet or party work.

We have entered a portentous year, the year of the 70th Anniversary of the Great October. Many of the republic's labor collectives have already accepted socialist responsibilities in honor of this glorious jubilee. The tasks which we must resolve in the coming year are great and complex. We have begun the year under difficult conditions. Many industrial and transport enterprises are working irregularly for various reasons. Our common duty is to do everything possible for the successful fulfillment of the plans for January and for the entire year, as well as for a suitable greeting to the 70th Anniversary of the Great October.

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

RAYKOM ELECTS ONE OF TWO CANDIDATES BY SECRET BALLOT

PRAVDA Report

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Feb 87 p 2

[Article by T. Ganicheva, chief of the Party Life Department of the newspaper KUZBASS, under the rubric "Party Life: The Experience of Restructuring": "Elections: Two Candidates Nominated for the Post of Rayon Party Committee First Secretary; Plenum Elects One by Secret Ballot"; first two paragraphs are PRAVDA introduction]

[Text]--Izmorskiy Rayon, Kemerovo Oblast--It was only a few days ago that we read in M.S. Gorbachev's report at the January Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee: "There is also a need to consider changing the system for electing the secretaries of rayon, okrug, city, oblast, and kray party committees and of the union republic CP central committees. Here...there is a possibility of having the secretaries, including the first secretaries, elected by secret ballot at plenums of the corresponding party committees...". Interesting! And if we try it out?

And, now, the members of the Izhmorskiy Rayon party committee have come together for an unusual committee plenum. There was a need to elect a first secretary. The previous one had been named to head the party organization of a neighboring rayon. Who would replace him? Who should be entrusted with this responsible post? These were the questions that came up at the rayon party committee plenum that was to called upon to elect the new first secretary. There were two people on the reserve list for this rayon party committee post.

These were the chairman of the rayon soviet executive committee, Ivan Vasilyevich Malkov, and the director of the Izhmorskiy Sovkhoz (state farm), Gennadiy Vasilyevich Sedykh.

"I am very excited", said an acquaintance, a collective farm economist. "It's a serious business, but I have a preference."

With the agreement of those gathered, the plenum was chaired by the first secretary of the Kemerovo Oblast party committee, N. Yermakov. He introduced both candidates. As a matter of fact, both Malkov and Sedykh are well known

in the rayon. They have lived and worked here for many years and they have similar backgrounds: workers, service in the army, the institute, and economic, Komsomol, party, and soviet work. If usual procedures had been followed, then it could not have been more simple: the buro would have proposed the election of one individual and the hall would have voted unanimously for him. It would not even have been necessary to count the raised hands. And any subjectivism or someone's light pressure behind closed doors in the buro would not filter through. But, in an hour, it would turn out that there would not have been any real, as opposed to apparent, unanimity. It was not for nothing, therefore, that the chairman called for frankness and encouraged any comments of substance.

People without any notes or long preparations expressed their thoughts. Each defended his "own" candidate. In these circumstances, notes would have looked really absurd.

Both Malkov and Sedykh were prepared for the contest and approached it with full awareness. V. Romanov, the chief of the organizational and party work department of the oblast party committee, and V. Luchshev, oblast party committee secretary, had met with them several days before the plenum. Understandably, it was very important to learn the mood of the candidates, their attitude toward the new method. This was, indeed, an unaccustomed thing, but both Vasiliyevs took a courageous view of it: our work is on view, but we have nothing to fear, and neither one of them declined the nomination.

People said what they thought when discussing the inclusion of the candidates on the ballot for the secret vote.

P. Giyedenko, RAPO (Rayon Agro-Industrial Association) first deputy chairman: "I am for Malkov. We have worked together for a long time. In all his positions, he has coped with the burden. The demands made on a first secretary today are very heavy. We must count on every person doing his own job. The rayon party committee has always thrown itself only into current matters -- milk yields, feeds -- but now it is necessary to work with people and for the long-term. Why, let us say, are milkmaids who belong to the party among those who are not meeting their goals? Necessary demands are not being made of them. Party meetings are not being held on a regular basis, particularly in shop organizations, and party groups are not functioning. Intensive technology in agriculture has been started on a pro forma basis, but has not been intelligently pursued. We need to shift to the contract form of work and to the check system of accounting. If the rayon party committee does not concern itself with this, we will not ensure any kind of acceleration.

Ivan Vasilyevich has serious deficiencies: rudeness and arrogance. He enjoys much professional authority, but needs to earn a personal authority of his own. Direct, respectful, and free relationships with people increase the authority of a manager. People know about us, even those things we don't know about our own selves. If we listen to them, this will do a lot that is useful. I think that Malkov has enough will power and character to restructure himself."

A. Panutriyev, chief animal technician at the Izhmorskiy Sovkhoz: "I see the way Gennadiy Vasilyevich Sedykh is working and I am certain that he can take over the rayon party organization. He knows how to listen to people, he has organizational skills, and it would not be a tenth part of what he is doing today at the sovkhaz."

V. Moiseyev, driver: "For Malkov. We drivers have a special interest in the roads. And from his attitude toward them, we see a lot in the director of the executive committee."

V. Salenko, director of the Troitskiy Sovkhoz: "I am not indifferent to who heads our party organization at such a sharply pivotal time. I know both of them well. I'll speak about Sedykh. I recall 1 December 1984. It was way below freezing. The water pump stopped working. Gennadiy Vasilyevich was then deputy chairman of the enterprise executive committee. It was solely due to his will, ability, self-discipline, and knowledge that great damage did not occur. There are moments when a person shows himself at his best. This was just such a situation. It is true that he has an extremely categorical streak in his nature. Let's say that they tried out a system of feed production at his own farm. He might consider this a standard: do as I do! But I hope that this won't happen any more."

V. Fedorov, second secretary of the rayon party committee: "It's nice that the oblast committee has studied both our candidates and found them deserving. In the past, without any special consultation, they usually brought in a leader from the outside. Recently, the situation with regard to personnel has been markedly changing for the better. Basically, today's candidates are equally good, but nevertheless I give the edge to Malkov. He is more principled and demanding. My advice to Ivan Vasilyevich is to pay more attention to people and not to allow yourself to be hasty in your decisions."

A. Basalayeva, milker at the Izhmorskiy Sovkhoz: "For Gennadiy Vasilyevich Sedykh. I'm not making a mistake."

Z. Altynbayev, chairman of the Azat Seber Kolkhoz: "I know both of them and prefer Malkov, but at the same time make a proposal: Sedykh is fully qualified to fill the position of chairman of the rayon soviet executive committee."

G. Fedorov, chairman of the Krasniy Putilovets Kolkhoz: "I think that we have created a great deal of nervous tension for our candidates. I believe that the loser should remain in reserve. He should have clear prospects after a debate such as this. We have to somehow think through this aspect within the new system, so that a deserving person isn't forced out of the game. Personally, I am for Sedykh. As it has somehow turned out, he has always been in the shade, in secondary roles. He took charge of a state farm that was lagging behind and, suddenly, what a display will, character and ability there was. In two years, everything was turned around and there was a change in people's psychology. Five departments at the farm -- this is no joke. In 80 out of 100 cases things happen as follows: at the start, with a new director, things go so-so, and then, after about 5 or 6 years, an improvement can be noticed. But, here, you can see what kind of a leap forward there has been."

S. Shchipacheva, Gosbank department head: "It is truly difficult to give preference to either of them, but if such a right has been given to us, then I am on the side of Malkov. We belong to the same party organization. Last year, he gave a report on his fulfillment of statutory requirements. We expressed serious criticism concerning him. He has recognized his shortcomings and, in my opinion, is trying to master himself; he has shown more restraint. Let's pose the problem as follows: perhaps Gennadiy Vasilyevich Sedykh has found his own niche, which suits him better, and where he will be of greater benefit."

We have presented these various opinions in such detail to give those who were not present at the session a feel for the atmosphere of the discussion. The fact of the matter is that each of us will have to participate in the selection of a director of some rank or another. It is necessary to learn to discuss things openly, to learn to understand people, to see and evaluate the good in them, and not to panic when we do not hear an expected compliment, to learn to be principled and to be generous, to learn how to preserve our own dignity and to spare the dignity of others. In short, to learn to live and to work under the conditions of democracy.

Everyone who wished had a chance to express his views. They were good, these moments -- to see and feel how people think.

Five people were selected as a commission to count the votes. Urns were set out in the meeting hall and ballots were distributed in the lobby. The work offices were made available to those who wanted privacy. The name of only one candidate could remain in the ballot. If you cross out both, you can write in your own; if you leave both, the ballot is considered invalid.

And so, the chairman of the vote-counting commission read the results. Forty-nine members of the rayon party committee voted. There were no invalid ballots. For Malkov, it was 29 in favor, 20 against. For Sedykh, it was 20 for and 29 opposed. I. Malkov was chosen first secretary of the Izhmorskiy Rayon party committee.

We wanted to dispel the smallest doubts concerning objectivity. Didn't the eloquence, the emotionality of the speakers have an effect on the results of the election, didn't the ranking of one as the first in alphabetical order have an influence on opinion? I approached Gennadiy Vasilyevich Sedykh with these questions. He replied:

"In principle, this is possible when people don't know the candidates well enough. In this case, this possibility is excluded. Of course, to cheer myself up, I might say that, to a certain degree, a traditional stereotype was at work: the chairman of the soviet executive committee becomes the first secretary. However, it is evident that this is not the way it was. The victory was an honest one. I am sincerely thankful to the people for their frankness, for their kind words, for the truth. I am not going to turn it into a tragedy. This form of election, in my view, is needed: more trust -- more control, more control -- more responsibility. What's bad in this?"

And so, democracy. We are going further. Indecisively, anxiously for the moment, but we are going on. We like this system. The majority likes it. This is, indeed, the natural way -- to think, to compare, to have a preference! And it is natural to feel good about yourself if someone is seriously interested in your opinion. There is trust, there is responsibility and, with these acquisitions, it is possible to go a long way.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Report

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Feb 87 p 2

[Article by SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA correspondent V. Kostyukovskiy: "Two Candidates: Rayon Party Committee Plenum, by Direct Secret Ballot, Elects First Secretary"]

[Text]--Kemerovo Oblast--This is something new in our party life. It seems only a few days ago that the proposal to consider changing the system of electing the secretaries of rayon, okrug, city, oblast, and kray party committees and of union republic Communist Party central committees was made from the tribune of the January Central Committee Plenum. The essence of this change is that the secretaries, including first secretaries as well, would be elected by secret ballot at plenums of the respective party committees, and at the same time the members of the party committee would have the right to add any number of candidates to the list of those to be voted upon. Such a system will seriously increase the accountability of the secretaries to the party committees that have elected them, will increase confidence in their work, and will make it possible to determine more precisely the extent of their authority.

And now we have our first experience with this. Not a hurry-up response to the topic of the day, but an event that has been long in maturing.

The words used by N. S. Yermakov, first secretary of the Kemerovo Oblast party committee, in addressing the participants of a 6 February plenum of the Izhmorskiy Rayon party committee, were characterized by their distinct novelty:

"In the name of the oblast party committee buro, comrades, I turn to you with the proposal that you conduct today's elections in a new way."

...We looked around the hall. There is no need to be sly, to report the assertion that astonishment reigned within it. No secret had been made of preparations for the plenum, and a majority of those gathered at it already knew that it would be an unusual one. But, what is true, is true: one and the same question could be read on the faces of many of them -- "Isn't it too early?..."

In fact, isn't it too early? Are party members prepared psychologically for such elections? Isn't the oblast party committee getting ahead of events? Isn't there too much haste here, a desire, as an end in itself, to rush ahead,

leaping steps in the process? To obtain an answer to these questions, we need to go back to recent past history.

For several years, Valentin Pavlovich Yeremeyev has worked as first secretary of the Izhmorskiy Rayon party committee. He took over a neglected management situation. And although there still remains a whole host of things to be done in the rayon, he succeeded in accomplishing a lot. It is generally recognized that Yeremeyev knows how to work with personnel, and it is precisely therefore that the oblast party committee not long ago recommended him to become first secretary in a neighboring rayon, where there has been an evident personnel "break-down". Well, who should become first secretary in Izhmorskiy Rayon? In the organizational department of the oblast party committee they took out the lists of reserve candidates which had been approved a year ago. Two back-up candidates were listed:

MALKOV, IVAN VASILYEVICH: 39 years old; party member since 1971; native of Izhmorskiy Rayon; educated as an agricultural scientist; began his professional career as a rural school teacher; served in the army; has worked as organizational department chief, second secretary of the local rayon committee of the Komsomol, later -- as a rural soviet chairman, as a state farm party committee secretary, as a rayon people's control committee chairman, and as a rayon soviet executive committee deputy chairman. Since November 1980, has been chairman of the rayon soviet executive committee.

SEDYKH, GENNADIY VASILYEVICH: 37 years old; party member since 1974; also a Izhmorskiy Rayon local product; graduated from the state university with a specialty in teaching physical education; is studying as an external student in the 5th course of the agricultural institute; employment background -- metal-worker, teacher, rayon council chairman of the Urozhay voluntary sports society, second and later first secretary of the Izhmorskiy Rayon All-Union Komsomol committee, sovkhos party committee secretary, chief of the rayon party committee organizational department, then 5 years as deputy chairman of the rayon soviet executive committee. In February 1985 took over as head of the underproductive Izhmorskiy Sovkhos.

A background information form is, however, no more than a background information form. You do not perceive the living person behind it. The chief of the oblast party committee's party-work organization department, Vasilii Ivanovich Romanov, went to Izhmorskiy Rayon. Then he reported to the secretariat concerning his meetings with the active party membership: with the members of the rayon party committee buro, the secretaries of many party organizations, and with farm workers. Many considered both Malkov and Sedykh to be worthy individuals and businesslike workers, although not without shortcomings. Either one or the other could take over leadership of the rayon party organization. The secretariat did not come to a unanimous decision. Shortly afterwards, they sought advice in the oblast party committee buro, and again there was no full certainty, whom to chose. The buro, it should be said, met immediately following the January Central Committee Plenum. And so, then and there, the first secretary, N.S. Yermakov, made the suggestion:

"Perhaps we should arrange the elections on a competitive basis? As was proposed at the Plenum?"

The buro members thought about it. The proposal was unexpected but, as everyone understood, the situation itself suggested such an experiment.

It is important to note that, having enlisted the support of the buro's members, the first secretary set one condition:

"We are planning, it can be said, an experiment. And indeed, to a certain degree, this is an experiment -- on people. Will the candidates agree?"

They spoke to them and clearly the decision presented to Malkov and Sedykh was not a simple one. And nonetheless, having thought about it, each answered: "I agree".

Let's return to the story of the rayon party committee plenum. At the request of those attending, it was chaired by N. S. Yermakov. He is the one who proposed the procedure to be followed. The participants in the plenum would discuss the two candidates who had been nominated. However, anyone also had the right to propose another, new one. This person should also be discussed. Everyone wishing to speak would be given an opportunity to do so, without time limits. Only members of the rayon party committee would, of course, vote. The ballots for the secret vote would include the names of the candidates who had already been nominated by the plenum. When voting, each person was to leave only one candidate in the list -- either one who had been included in advance, or an additional one, whom he personally proposed himself. Ballots in which all candidates were crossed out, and also those where more than one candidate remained, would be considered invalid.

There were no objections to such a procedure. However, let us make the qualification that, so far, there weren't any...

And so, after a familiarization with the candidates' background data, discussion began. We will give some excerpts from several of the speeches.

RAPO First Deputy Chairman, P.R. Gnedenko:

"Ivan Vasilyevich Kalkov has a serious shortcoming which, it is true, he has recently been trying to correct. At times a sharpness breaks through in his conversations with subordinates. Free and easy dealings with people produce greater benefit and authority. However, in the job of rayon soviet executive committee chairman, he has done a great deal and the results are evident in both the production and the social spheres. Therefore, I want to support his candidacy."

Director of the Troitskiy Sovkhoz, V. I. Salenko:

"The January Central Committee Plenum called upon us not to hide new and useful things away in our hold baskets. And it is a good thing that we are conducting such a plenum. It is not a matter of indifference to us who takes charge of the regional party organization in this difficult, turbulent time. It is not easy to choose. We have known both long and well. I want to speak about Sedykh. I recall the first of December 1984. It was way below freezing with a strong wind, and a serious accident occurred in the water pump.

Gennadiy Vasilyevich -- he was then deputy chairman of the rayon soviet executive committee -- through his own will and abilities as an organizer, convinced the people to work in these super-difficult conditions. And they, it can be said, saved the micro-rayon. It's true that he sometimes is too categorical in insisting on his point of view, and he himself later has to pay for this. I am for Sedykh."

Second Secretary of the rayon party committee, V. Ya. Fedortsov:

"In the not-distant past they used to "import" personnel for us from the oblast. Now the situation has changed. You see, there are two candidates for first secretary, and it is difficult to choose somebody. I will vote for Malkov. I have known him for 10 years as a competent specialist, a capable organizer, a man of principle. His readiness to make demands of people is an attractive feature. People have talked here about a shortcoming of his --yes, he is sometimes sharp. But I am sure that Ivan Vasilyevich is capable of restraining himself."

Chairman of the Krasniy Putilovets Kolkhoz, G. P. Fedorov:

"It seems to me, although there are two people in reserve for one position, that it is nonetheless necessary to designate candidate number one and, just in case, number two. It is wrong that, by such a system of elections, we are creating enormous nervous strain for the candidates. But, perhaps, I feel this way from old habit... Earlier, nothing ever forced me to make a choice."

...We are recounting the course of the plenum in such detail because we are certain that many of our readers have an intense interest in the details, right up to the smallest ones. They are, in fact, important: this is the first experience...

And so, the ballot contained two candidates. There were no other nominations. A break was called for the voting. All offices on the first floor were put at the disposal of the rayon party committee members. A five-person vote-counting commission set to work. And meanwhile we talked with several participants in the plenum.

Secretary of the party committee at the Simbirskiy Sovkhoz, L. N. Anikin:

"Some people spoke out, some didn't, but everybody got to thinking. Everyone is expressing his opinion in the voting. This is a good system of elections."

"And you do not agree that too much nervous strain is being placed on the candidates?"

"I agree. But on the other hand, how can one not be nervous at such a moment? And they should be anxious!"

Director of the Novoslavyanskiy Sovkhoz, A. V. Zagorulko:

"It is important that every one of the people voting be guided not by his sympathies and antipathies, but by a party point of view."

"And do these really not coincide?"

"Not always..."

Driver at the Simbirskiy Sovkhoz, S. V. Ilin:

"I like this way of voting. It's more just this way!"

...Well, the vote count has been completed. It wouldn't be a mistake to say that, standing on the tribune, the chairman of the counting commission -- the party committee secretary at one of the sovkhozes, A. V. Volkov, literally like a magnet drew the attention of the silent, tense hall to himself.

"All 49 ballots have been recognized as valid. The votes were distributed as follows. Malkov, Ivan Vasilyevich: 29 votes for, 20 against. Sedykh, Gennadiy Vasilyevich: for -- 20, against -- 29.

I. V. Malkov was chosen first secretary of the rayon party committee.

"How do you feel?." We asked him this simple question after the plenum.

"I can't give you a precise answer. You have to live through it..."

Our conversation with Gennadiy Vasilyevich Sedykh was more detailed.

"I feel, to be honest, unimportant," he confessed. It is really a difficult ordeal. But, nevertheless, I firmly believe that the future lies with such elections. When they become the practice, the usual thing, it will be easier for the candidates than it was for us, the first ones. Gradually, we will get used to it all; it can't be any other way."

"Were you prepared for such a result?"

"Yes, I was prepared. Perhaps, even for a sharper split in the votes. I don't feel that I have been defeated."

We agree. His reaction is honest and courageous.

Kemerovo Obkom First Secretary Comments

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Feb 87 p 2

[Comments by N. S. Yermakov, first secretary of the Kemerovo Oblast party committee]

"I say frankly: this decision was not a simple one for us, the members of the oblast party committee buro. What was it that urged us in its direction? The main thing, of course, was the January Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the report made at it and the spirit itself of the discussions there. We are living in a complex and responsible period of restructuring and have already been able to become convinced that this is possible only through deepened, serious democratization of all facets of life. This includes party life as

well. The electoral practice that has developed is now outmoded. With increasing frequency we are coming to consider the very meaning of the word "to elect". Which is to take the best of available choices.

Of course, we had doubts. Perhaps we should nevertheless not rush into it, we should wait for new regulations, for instructions? But, indeed, instructions turn out to be more precise and vital when they rest upon real experience. What will happen if we make a mistake? Well, mistakes will have to be corrected without needlessly dramatizing the situation.

Well, to give my direct impressions about the plenum of the Izhmorskiy Rayon party committee, I think on the whole that it went well. The initial fears, connected with having two candidates on the ballot, with the possibility of a conflict of pride or that subjective judgments would prevail, turned out to be without grounds. This is very reassuring.

But many things clearly require still additional thought. For example, is it good that both candidates were presented basically in terms of their past services and that all discussion in the debate was limited to this? On the other hand, it is likewise correct that a person cannot be evaluated without knowing his moral and already demonstrated professional qualities. However, unfortunately, this turned out to avoid the main question: the degree to which one or the other candidate is capable, at a given time and in a given rayon party organization, of improving the state of practical affairs. Indeed, the future of the rayon and the fate of its people will to a large degree depend upon whom we now elect. This is a well-known truth.

The oblast party committee, as the initiator of the "competition", also needs to do a better job of thinking through some aspects. So that the candidates don't look like "marriageable young girls", listening with downcast eyes to opinions about themselves, but are rather given the right to speak out as people who already have their own plans for speeding up social and economic development in the rayon and for mobilizing the masses for this work. Their own, if you will, election platforms. These, I am convinced, will not show a person in a worse light than other descriptions of him. Incidentally, it would then be easier to demand a report from him at a plenum after a certain period of time. You made promises, comrade, and now let's take a look how your promises stand. Moreover, the candidate himself, having worked out a program which he will have to present at the plenum, will think: Am I up to this load? And, on the basis of his intentions, it will already be evident whether he is capable of organizing the matter in the way needed. In other words -- every candidate will have to defend his own line. And the members of the rayon party committee will decide which line is the most suitable. Who, if not they, will best know the situation.

What other first impressions do I have? The atmosphere in which the plenum took place. Its participants managed to create within the hall a climate of party comradeship. They spoke out in a principled way. Without being afraid what people would say, but also tactfully, without destroying the fine structure of respectful party relationships, and at the same time, without detriment to the spirit of businesslike discussion. It would be wrong to undervalue this delicate aspect of "competitive" elections, the extent of

trust and respect for both candidates. It is necessary to insist that the circumstances themselves in such cases do not leave any kind of negative aftereffects. That, figuratively speaking, everything is, in a party-like way, honest and clean. Despite the fact that a preference is expressed for one of them, his opponent or, if you wish, competitor, must remain his comrade, his faithful helper.

How powers will be distributed in the future will depend to a large degree specifically on the new secretary. Will he be succeed in giving full range to the potentials of yesterday's opponent. It is no secret that there are still some people who are rather afraid of having strong assistants. And they begin selecting ones that are a little weaker. But this results in a second echelon which then represents a heavy load to haul.

Another thought occurs to me. Isn't there a need to discuss the results of the plenum right away within the rayon party committee buro? To bring everything together, so to say?.. Or, how, let us say, to handle it if the candidate for an elective party post is not a local person but, as they say, "from outside"? Indeed, there have been, are, and will be such cases. If only because sometimes "a person from outside" is objectively necessary, with his fresh point of view and unclouded relationships. Should such a candidate be put on the ballot right away, or is it necessary to allow time to get to know him? Perhaps the question will even come up of giving a candidate a temporary assignment? Or ---of holding joint plenums of rayon party committees, where active voters from the rayon where the candidate used to work would be given the right of a consultative voice.

In a word, there are still many unanswered questions, but one thing is clear: the first step has been taken and, I am convinced, there is no going back. Particularly where it was taken, in the Izhmorskiy Rayon party committee. If subsequent personnel shifts were to be carried out here using the old methods, then party members might not understand and might not accept this. And also from our standpoint, this would be inconsistent.

Well, as regards the direct results of the voting, then even the vote count witnesses to the fact that both candidates were really deserving. And this cannot but be a cause of gladness. Incidentally, Gennadiy Vasilyevich Sedykh continues to remain in reserve, as a fully qualified candidate.

13032
CSO: 1800/363

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

REVIEWER RECALLS 'DOGMATIC' APPROACH TO HISTORY

PM061711 [Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 26 February 1987 carries on page 4 under the headline "An Incomplete Portrait" a 2,000-word article by Doctor of Historical Sciences Vladimir Gorbunov, meritorious scientific worker of the RSFSR, reviewing Soviet television's recent serial "Strokes in a Portrait of V.I. Lenin."

Gorbunov begins with a brief review of the episode covering the 1918 Brest Peace Treaty and the Extraordinary Fourth All-Russian Congress of Soviets, and goes on:

"It is worth dwelling separately on how the movie depicts I. Bukharin, since this concerns the general question of the truthful presentation of historical persons. In my view, both the playwright and actor O. Tabakov have been successful with this character. All of Bukharin's doubts and waverings are wonderfully reproduced, without even a hint at deliberate villainy. And yet, I am worried by the playwright's further development of this character, in view of the fact that M. Shatrov, recently telling young people about his creative plans to make a movie about Lenin's last days (Sobesednik, 1987, Issue No 4), spoke separately about Bukharin. In this context, there was a quotation of V.I. Lenin's words about Bukharin as theoretician, saying that he was 'the party's most valuable and most eminent theoretician...' Further on, however, and in the same context, Vladimir Ilich bluntly pointed out: '...but it is very doubtful whether his theoretical views could be fully classed as Marxist, because there is something scholastic in him (he never studied and, I think, never fully understood dialectics).' In this way, a truncated quotation distorts the essence of Bukharin's theoretical baggage (I am not speaking here of his political positions). I hope that this clarification by me will be of some use to the playwright in his work on the new movie."

The author praises the series and actor M. Ulyanov for their "truthful" presentation of Lenin, speaks of Lenin's qualities and his "close ties with the life of the country and the party," and turns to the episode entitled "The Atmosphere at the Council of People's Commissars":

"The atmosphere at the Council of People's Commissars is a businesslike atmosphere, an atmosphere of collective work, of direct and generally impartial criticism, of friendly comradely relations, of respect for the other person's

opinion or, to put it briefly, an atmosphere of open and inostentatious democracy of which we are talking today at the top of our voices and which we are striving, following Lenin's tradition, to affirm more fully in life. The movies show us how Lenin and his fellow comrades solved in a businesslike and efficient fashion the numerous and varied questions of economic and cultural building, and this material in itself is instructive and useful."

After reviewing the episode covering Lenin's approach to literature and the arts, Gorbunov speaks of how helpful playwright Shatrov must have found the complete collected works of Lenin, recently completed by the CPSU Central Committee Institute of Marxism-Leninism, saying that "without such a documentary base, an author building his screenplay largely on the foundations of a documentary collage would be deprived of an opportunity for fruitful labor." He goes on:

"I am fully in a position to judge this professionally, since I am myself an associate of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism, have worked there for 36 years, and know the nature of our work at first hand. I am saying this only because I deem it my duty to reply to some reviewers of M. Shatrov's movies, who imagine that the main difficulties in the playwright's work on the topic of Lenin stem from obstacles raised by the Institute of Marxism-Leninism where this material was initially reviewed.

"I will not deny this. Viewed from today's positions, these reviews in the past are somewhat dogmatic, curtailing the sphere of artistic design. It is nevertheless important to clarify the substantial fact that, when reviewing materials about V.I. Lenin, associates expressed their opinion of the success with which Vladimir Ilich's image was presented and the factual aspects of the work, but they did not decide the question (nor could they formally decide it) of the publication or stage presentation of any play. That was not decided by the institute."

Gorbunov concludes with a brief discourse, supported by quotes from Gorbachev and Lenin, about the need to concentrate on the future instead of "raking over" the past.

/8309

CSO: 1800/389

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

MEASURES PROPOSED TO ELIMINATE DISTORTIONS IN UZBEK HISTORY

Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 4 Dec 86 p 3

[Article by Professor M. Vakhobov, doctor of historical sciences: "In Spite of the Truth of History". Decisions of the 3rd Plenum of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee Brought to Life]

[Text] In evaluating the state of affairs in the sphere of ideology, the 3rd Plenum of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee pointed out that "along with serious disruptions in the socialist standards of management and in the Leninist principles of personnel selection and placement in the republic party organization, significant downfalls in the ideological and political education work were also allowed." One of the reasons for this, as pointed out at the plenum, was the fact that the idealization of the historical past and the departure from class positions in evaluating certain historical events and personalities have become ever more widespread.

In the 60's there were books published in the republic and articles appeared in newspapers and journals, in which all the poets of the feudal period were pronounced to be classics of Uzbek literature regardless of their class position and ideological views, while the period of supremacy of Timur and the Timurides was called the "golden age" in the history of the Uzbek people. The thesis of the "golden age" belonged to the pan-Turkists of the 20's, who received a firm rebuff during that period from the party organs. Now this thesis was broadly propagandized. Moreover, the proposition was presented to formulate, supposedly around the palaces of the khans, literary schools ("literary media") uniting the poets. For example, the Herat and Kokand schools. This was a restoration of the bourgeois theory of the "unified flow" which had been denounced in the republic back in the post-war years.

In 1968 the "Fan" publishing house reprinted a Russian translation of the "Code of Timur" with an "Introduction" by I. Muminov. That same year, his brochure entitled "The Role and Place of Amir Timur in the History of Central Asia" was also published. In 1969 the journal GULISTAN published his article entitled "Timur and the Timurides" and the book "The Code of Timur" in the Uzbek language. These works reviewed the evaluation of the personality of Timur which had long been established in Soviet historiography, in the direction of its idealization. The departure from class positions and falsification of comments by K. Marx about Timur were also evident.

The publication of this brochure caused not only bewilderment among the historians of Moscow, Leningrad and other cities, but also indignation among the intelligentsia working in those fraternal republics whose territory had in the past been subjected to Timur's raids. In 1973 this work was reviewed in the journals VOPROSY ISTORII (No 2) and ISTORIYA SSSR (No 5) in articles by A. P. Novoseltsev and M. Abduraimov. Critical comments addressed to the brochure's author also appeared on the pages of the journal KOMMUNIST, in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, and at a conference of ideological workers in Kiev. The resolution of the CPSU Central Committee entitled "On Marxist-Leninist Teachings and Economic Education of Management Cadres in the Tashkent City Party Organization" in 1972 also pointed out the idealization of the past which had been allowed in the historical works by Uzbekistan scholars:

The question arises: Why must we speak today about these instances of distortion which took place over 15 years ago? Because they never did receive an objective evaluation in the republic, and the harmful consequences of this distortion of history still actively persist. This fact was noted at the 3rd Plenum of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee: "The idealization of the past, the non-class and anti-historical approach have led to the situation where feudal despots like Timur still wander in broad succession through the theatre stages, movie screens and pages of books. Through the unthinking hand of some writers and counter to the truth of history, they are represented as humanists and far-sighted politicians."

On the other hand, we must help people free themselves from the influence of idealization of the past. We must help them to recognize the harm in such idealization.

In the Academy of Sciences and in the artists' unions the romantization of the past is accompanied by the formation of local "cults" of authority. Some scholars acted like newly proclaimed little czars and bais [rich Central Asian landowners], like some sort of "independent sovereigns" who have been granted the inalienable right to evaluate certain historical events. According to their indisputable will and counter to the historical facts, the adventuristic actions of the inveterate obscurantist Madali Ishan in Andizhan in 1898 with his reactionary slogan of "gazavata" against all Russians was proclaimed as the culmination of the popular anti-feudal and anti-colonial movement of the workers of Turkestan kray. "Mumin readings" were practiced at the UzSSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Philosophy and Law.

Based on their conception of the idealization of the past, literary critics, historians, philosophers and writers went still farther, romanticizing the images of the Timurides Sultan Hussein, Baykara, Bubur, the Kokand khans, and others.

This was clearly manifested in the novel by the well-known prosaic Primkul Kadyrov entitled "Starry Nights" (Babur), as well as in the essays of Aziz Kayumov entitled "Zukhuriddin Mukhammad Babur". Both authors based their works on the diary of Babur himself--"Baburname". Trying to show him to be a just ruler, fighter for the liberation of the popular masses, patriot of his homeland banished from his country and suffering in a far-away land (in Afghanistan and India), etc., they completely overlooked Babur's cruelty in the countries which

he conquered, his desire to conquer foreign lands and to rob their people, and the despotic character of his state, which Babur himself admitted in "Baburname".

The works of P. Kadyrov and A. Kayumov lack the concept of classes and social groups. They never once make mention of the difficult position of the popular masses, the forms of their exploitation and other social categories. Instead of a class division, they divide society into the "good" and "bad" khans. Instead of the popular masses they present beks and their lashkers (warriors). The evaluation of the events of this historical period, of the situation in the country, and of the personality of Babur himself totally diverges from the positions of socialist realism in the direction of petty bourgeois romanticism.

A. Kayumov affirms that Babur's struggle for the creation of a centralized state had a positive content. Thus, having conquered Afghanistan and India, he supposedly created a centralized and powerful state on their territory, eliminated internal strife, and established a "peaceful life".

In reality, Babur tells with great satisfaction in his "Baburname" about how women, children and old people were exterminated in the prison camps, and how towers were built from the chopped off heads of those who would not submit to him.

P. Kadyrov, describing episodes from Babur's personal life, describes with delight the gold-plated trays and golden goblets in which he was served food and wine, the presents which he gave to his lashkers--robes embroidered with gold, horses with gold harnesses, etc. The Soviet writer should also tell of the sources of these riches.

The effort to show Babur as a ruler in an epoch of absolute monarchy is in fact incorrect, and in practice leads not only to the idealization of his personality, but also to a modernization of history. He was a poet. Unlike his contemporaries, he wrote more simply, in the everyday language of the people. "Baburname" is a valuable source for studying the history of the Uzbek language and the fauna and flora of that period. Yet this cannot serve as the basis for a positive evaluation of his political views and actions as a feudal-despotic ruler.

Literary critic M. Rasuli, in his book "Bratstva shchedryye plody" [The Generous Fruits of Brotherhood] maintains that writer S. Borodin was able to show the sources of formation of the Uzbek "national character" in the image of Timur and the people of his epoch as depicted in his novel "Stars Over Samarkhand".

This, pardon the expression, scientific generalization, served as the point of departure for the novel "Eternal Peaks" written by Mamadali Makhmudov and published in the journal SHARK YULDUZI in 1981.

This novel is characteristic not only in its idealization of the past, but also in its aggressive directionality of the notions of pan-Turkism. The novel's author regretfully reports that Timur allowed such errors which today bring us great misfortune. The great Timur's biggest mistake was when he defeated the khan of the Golden Horde Takhtamysh in 1395. Takhtamysh was a Turk, and his army was composed of Turks. Having defeated Takhtamysh, he created favorable conditions for backward Russia to free itself from the yoke of the Golden Horde, and it rapidly gained strength. He did the Russians a great service, and in fact opened wide the gates to Central Asia for them.

Another of Timur's errors, says the novel, was that he opened up the gates of such great Turkish cities as Bukhara, Samarkhand, and Herat to foreign nations (Tajiks, Iranians, Hindus, and others), and allowed them to settle there..."If I were the great Timur," proclaims the hero of the novel, "I would execute all the men of the conquered peoples, or else castrate them and then turn them into our slaves."

Through the words of another character, the writer laments that Uzbeks of Mangite origin speak Tajik. As a result, the pure blooded Turkish poets Mirza Badil, Zabinisa Begim and Khusrav Dekhlaviy wrote their poems in the Farsi language. And now the Tajiks consider them to be Farsi. Turks have lived since time immemorial in the village of Afshona, where Abu Ali ibn Sina was born. Despite this fact, today or tomorrow the Tajiks may announce that Ibn Sina was a Farsi. It is a good thing that Akhmad Yasaviy and Noavoi wrote their works in the Turkish language, or else the Farsi may also claim them for their own.

Even in the 20's the leaders of the Uzbek pan-Turkists did not speak out so openly.

All this was published on the pages of the journal SHARK YULDUZI and disseminated in the Uzbek language in a circulation of over 200,000 copies at the same time as the speeches given from the podiums of all-union, inter-republic and republic conferences and congresses told of internationalism, friendship of peoples, and the help of the Russian people...

In historical science there has also been an increased tendency to smoothe over historical events, to illuminate them through rose-colored glasses, to stress the supremacy of the past Uzbek people, and to obliterate the errors of certain state and party leaders. This was a reflection of the overall spirit of the examined period: the idealization not only of the past, but also the exaggeration of the republic's economic role in the fraternal Union of Soviet Socialist Republics under current conditions.

In part this is explained by the fact that the Academy of Sciences directors ceased having scientific discussions and theoretical sessions on important historical problems, and took on the role of legislators in the sphere of historical science. There was a widespread practice of publishing the collected works of individual statesmen and scholars in the republic who were close to the republic's leaders and without any consideration for the scientific and practical importance of these works. At the same time, there was no publication in the Uzbek language of the selected works of such followers of Lenin in Turkestan as M. Frunze, V. Kuybyshev, Ya. Rudzutak, as well as his comrades-in-arms Ya. Sverdlov and F. Dzerzhinskiy, and others who have practical importance in the moral-political work and communist upbringing of the people, and especially the youth.

In the recent period, work has been completed on translating into the Uzbek language the collected works of V. I. Lenin, three volumes of "Das Kapital" by K. Marx, and a number of other works by K. Marx and F. Engels. The works of poets and "thinkers" of the past were widely propagandized. However, the following important event was ignored in silence: not a single scientific article was published which illuminated the content of individual works by the classics of Marxism-Leninism or illustrating their ideas by facts from the life

of the Uzbek people. There wasn't even an informational report issued regarding the publication of the three volumes of "Das Kapital" by K. Marx.

All this could not help but do harm to the cause of communist upbringing of the workers in general and international upbringing in particular.

The 3rd Plenum of the Uzbekistan Communist Party Central Committee adopted the decision to increase attention to questions of instilling in the people a sense of patriotism and socialist internationalism, inviolable friendship of peoples and class hatred to the enemies of socialism. It called for persistently overcoming any manifestations of national seclusion and localism.

In order to bring this resolution to life, we need to wage an aggressive and decisive struggle against the consequences of ideological errors which as yet have not been neutralized and continue to play a negative role in the process of communist upbringing of the people. We must begin this struggle by increasing the role and importance of the historical sciences in international and patriotic upbringing.

With this purpose in mind, I would like to present several proposals.

Since the errors in the form of idealization of the past and departure from class positions and the principle of historicism in its evaluation were allowed in the humanitarian institutes of the UzSSR Academy of Sciences, they are the ones who must begin purification work. However, their directors and leading social scientists still occupy a position of neutrality. They are in no hurry to present scientifically substantiated announcements disclosing the reasons for the allowed errors, or to submit proposals for overcoming the negative consequences based on the analysis of specific scientific works published in this period.

I propose that we also review many of the articles from the Uzbek Soviet Encyclopedia which were written in the spirit of the conception presented by the brochure on Timur, from the standpoint of idealization of the past. In my opinion, we must prepare and publish a supplemental volume of the encyclopedia with this purpose in mind.

One of the reasons for the emergence and spread of negative phenomena in the sphere of ideology and culture is the weak formulation of the study of Uzbek SSR history in the schools, vocational-technical schools and VUZes. The current practice of using individual materials on the history of Uzbekistan in studying the course of history of the USSR does not give systematic knowledge. Therefore, the course curricula of schools, vocational-technical schools, and all pedagogical and humanities faculties of universities must include the independent subject entitled "History of the Uzbek SSSR", and reliable textbooks must be developed for schools and VUZes.

Moreover, the multi-volume and monographic works which are currently published on the history of the Uzbek SSR and the Uzbekistan Communist Party are not generally accessible to the mass readership. Therefore, we must prepare concise texts on the history of the Uzbek SSR and the history of the Uzbekistan Communist Party to be used for independent study by a broad range of workers. Moreover, we must make more widespread use of materials on the history of the Uzbekistan Communist Party in studying the history of the CPSU in VUZes.

We believe that the teaching of history of the Uzbekistan Communist Party could also be practiced within the system of party and Komsomol education.

And, finally, the pages of newspapers and journals and radio and television programs should introduce special sections on propaganda of individual works by classics of Marxism-Leninism, illustrating the implementation of their ideas through actual examples taken from the life of the republic.

I believe these measures will serve to increase the role of the social sciences, to strengthen the international upbringing of the masses, and to formulate within them an ideological immunity against national narrow-mindedness, religious prejudices and petty bourgeois views.

12322

CSO: 1830/250

MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA

OFFICIALS PRESSURE JOURNALIST, DENY ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 7 Jan 87 p 1

[Article by A. Sharafiyev, department head of KAMENSKIY RABOCHIY newspaper under the rubric "A Journalist from Kamensk-Uralskiy Speaks:" "We Were Prohibited from Reporting Falsification of Documents..."]

[Text] Sverdlovsk Oblast--I am writing to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA because they have forbidden me from publishing in the city newspaper KAMENSKIY RABOCHIY. It happened in this way. In compliance with oblast commitments, it was planned to put into operation the initial phase of Pipe-Rolling Workshop Number 1 of the Sinarskiy Pipe Plan on 25 December. Five days before this date it became absolutely clear that the building would not be finished on time. It is sufficient to say that the new shop was not fully outfitted with equipment, that it had a shortage of about four hundred workers, and that it would not reach the first level of implementing production. Moreover, the installations for cleaning industrial drainage were not working, and the roll shops--also an integral part of the startup complex--were not ready. A list of all the work unfinished would take up several pages. In short, there was only one option left for the builders of the general contracting trust Uralaluminumstroy and their subcontractors--to continue working on into the already new year.

I have written about the workshop's lack of readiness for being put in operation in KAMENSKIY RABOCHIY. The article came out on 24 December. Immediately the assistant editor got a call from S. A. Zhdanov, first secretary of the CPSU gorkom, who repeated several times that he forbids the publication of my material on the construction of this workshop and also residential housing. It is apparent that he well remembered the article published on 5 February 1986 in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA entitled "The Padding of Figures Continues." The article discussed in part the pernicious practice, which is extremely widespread in Kamensk-Uralskiy, of turning over for occupation unfinished housing. Following publication of these reports, several thousand square meters of purportedly ready housing were excluded from occupation.

The meeting of the state commission that approved Rolling-Pipe Workshop Number 1 for operation nevertheless took place, although it was delayed five days. Knowing of the meeting, three Kamensk journalists, the editor of the

high-circulation newspaper SINARSKIY TRUBNIK, N. I. Buynosova, the editor of the city radio station R. M. Tsukanova and I arrived at the suite of the chief engineer of the Sinarskiy Pipe Plant, but the chairman of the state commission, F. D. Mogilevkin, from an allied plant in Chelyabinsk escorted us out the door, declaring, "We have critical questions here..."

What he had in mind later became clear to us. Even in the reception room we understood that passions were becoming heated. A. A. Simonov, head of the construction department of the CPSU Sverdlovsk Obkom arrived at the factory, together with S. A. Zhdanov, first secretary of the CPSU Kamensk-Uralskiy Gorkom, who had placed himself across the hall in the offices of the factory director, A. I. Brizhan. Between the two sets of offices hither and thither ran L. P. Kunitsyn, chief of the complex initial phase, who was the very one supervising the Uralaluminumstroy Trust, and L. G. Marchenko, chief engineer of the enterprise, who was chairman of the Workers Commission. Now and then they would withdraw somewhere to consult with some of the members of the State Commission.

On the following day, 31 December, the meeting of the State Commission continued. Now they even admitted us, the journalists, to it. But the meeting, in reality, was non-existent. Some of those taking part communicated with one another in low tones (so that they would not be heard by the correspondents), while others again went off somewhere...At last, the chairman, for all to hear, announced that the first phase of the workshop was approved for operation! There was even a meeting scheduled at 1500 hours to celebrate the occasion of the startup. But it never took place. The builders and plant workers dispersed without receiving the congratulations promised. Evidently, the sponsors could not bring themselves to decide on the deceitful festivities, although the workshop was nevertheless considered complete and all the documentation dispatched for the endorsement of Minchermet. I was told about this in the planning department of the Uralaluminumstroy Trust after New Year's Day.

Meanwhile, the deputy chief sanitary inspector in the oblast, the field technical inspector of the central committee trade union, and the director of the Kamensk-Uralskiy division of Stroybank, L.A. Titova, refused to sign the official statement of the State Commission. Lidiya Arsentiyena described how the members of the commission were "pressured." She, for example, was not given an opportunity to familiarize herself with the necessary documents, which in itself is a crying shame. They were unceasingly rude to her. I tried to get a look at the statement of acceptance, but did not quite succeed. I called up the plant's chief engineer, L. G. Marchenko.

"I'm not ready to talk with you," he said, cutting me off. "Not all the documents may be shown to journalists."

It remains to be said that the "veto" on my publishing in KAMENSKIY-RABOCHIY remains in force. At the instigation of S.A. Shdanov I am thus unable to carry out my professional duties.

MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA

NEW ESTONIAN JOURNAL RAISES CONTROVERSY

Tallinn SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA in Russian 27 Nov 86 p 4

[Article by O. Vladimirov: "A Journal Meets Its Readers"]

[Text] The cultural life of our republic is rich in events, all of which to a greater or lesser degree become the object of attention by a wide circle of public opinion. So it happened with the young journal VIKERKAAR [RAINBOW], which came into being in July of this year. Its appearance has not gone unnoticed. The press has started to talk about the new publication. Persons living in Estonia, in Moscow, Leningrad and Riga, read the first issues and shared their impressions with one another; thus, public opinion has been taking shape. And although appraisals of the publication have been extremely varied—from acutely negative to delightedly positive, VIKERKAAR has stirred up interest. The world for the time being has seen only five issues. However, this "for the time being" is already almost half a year. The time has come to sum up certain preliminary results. A questionnaire will therefore be placed in this year's final issue. The editorial staff hopes to find out with its help the opinions of as large as possible number of its readers regarding the first six issues. It's no problem if you haven't managed to read all of them, most of the major libraries in Estonia receive them.

But a questionnaire, of course, cannot take the place of live personal contact. Not long ago a meeting took place between the editorial staff and readers in the small hall of the Ugal Theater in Viljandi. The town residents were well prepared for it; they posed questions, they conducted a poll among the participants on the journal's popularity, and Ugal Theater actors selected pages of prose that pleased them for reading from the stage.

Interesting facts were revealed as a result of the poll. A very considerable section of the youth of Viljandi has become interested in the journal, and copies of VIKERKAAR are acknowledged to be in short supply.

The questions addressed to the editorial staff also attest to the concern for VIKERKAAR. Residents of Viljandi, for example, were interested in the story of the journal's inception. Mikhkel Mutt, a member of the journal's editorial board who participated in the meeting, discussed how the editorial board is helping the journal.

Yoel Sang, editor of the prose and poetry department, in response to a question about the art of young poets, remarked that the poems sent in by them tended to be overly descriptive and lacking in thematic content, but that the journal had nevertheless revealed to the reader some new and interesting names.

Mikhkel Tiks, who is responsible for journalistic materials in the journal, was also rather optimistic. For the present there are not many young and talented journalists in the republic, but it is to be hoped that VIKERKAAR will foster them and become a forum for the young intelligensia.

Tatyana Teppe, the deputy chief editor, chief editor Reyn Veydemann, and other participants at this interesting meeting discussed the problems of the journal.

12889/12851

CSO: 1800/275

RELIGION

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN EXILE, UNIATE MILLENNIUM ACTIVITIES SCORED

Moscow GOLOS RODINY in Russian No 1, 1987 p 12

[Article by M. Bessonov and M. Chernov: "The Jubilee and its Poisoners"; first paragraph is source introduction]

[Text] In 1988 a thousand years will have passed since Christianity was introduced to Kievan Rus as the state religion. For more than five years the Russian Orthodox Church has been making preparations for this celebration. Historical-theological articles published in the pages of the church press and sermons delivered in places of worship have been dedicated to the jubilee. The topic of the millennium of the "Baptism of Rus" has been widely discussed at seminars, meetings and symposia conducted by the Moscow Patriarchy both in the Soviet Union and abroad. Centers of ideological diversion and reactionary clerical circles are also preparing for the jubilee; for them the one-thousandth anniversary is merely a pretext for stirring up a new cycle of anti-Soviet propaganda, conducted on the basis of the long-outmoded theses of a purported lack of freedom of conscience, and supposed persecution for one's faith in our country. In general, neither the former nor the latter is true, especially in matters concerning one's creed.

The so-called "Russian Church Abroad" is creating an especially unsavory hullabaloo in connection with the coming celebration.

The organization and conduct of this unseemly activity has been entrusted to a so-called Jubilee Commission, which was set up as long ago as 1977; and the extensive illumination of these nasty-smelling activities has been the leading subject of a special quarterly publication, "The Russian Renaissance," whose chief editor is Alexander Kiselyev, a former Vlasovite and a betrayer of the Motherland.

And how is the history of Russia being presented? Three periods are defined for it: In the first, the pagan, pre-Christian period, Rus is represented as a "savage region," whose peoples had neither their own culture, nor history, nor national consciousness. The second period--the Christian--is associated with the "Baptism of Rus," which purportedly defines the entire subsequent history of the Russian state, and the Russian people as the "Chosen People." The post-revolutionary period in the history of our country is treated as an incidental episode, which has interrupted the movement of Russia toward Christianization of all spheres of the life of society, aligning them more closely with the high ideals of "life in Christ."

Thus, the slogan of the "Russian Church Abroad" is--Back to the Patriarchal Past; therein it is also seeking its own "heroes", and every member of the Orthodox Church living abroad, as well as believers in the Soviet Union, are called upon to honor them. For example, the "Russian Church Abroad" has canonized the last Russian Tsar, Nicholas II, whom the people nicknamed "the Bloody." Also numbered among the "saints" are White Guard generals and the reactionary hierarchy, who are notorious for their cruelty, intransigence, and obscurantism with respect to those citizens of Russia--both believers and atheists--who were united in the struggle for building a new and just life. What can one say in this regard? Believers of the Russian Orthodox Church consider it blasphemy and desecration of Christian precepts to canonize the butchers and oppressors of the Russian people. Behind these acts they see not religious, but political motives.

In connection with the jubilee, the figures of the "Russian Church Abroad" are also fond of saying spiteful things about the purported systematically-organized destruction of cultural treasures in our country, of the loss of cultural monuments, and of the deliberate destruction of churches and monasteries, icons and frescoes. And after all, it is common knowledge that the Soviet Union is one of the few states in the world in which a law has been passed on preserving cultural and historical treasures. This statute has been recorded in the USSR Constitution as well. Many of our existing cult buildings are masterpieces of world architecture, and cult artifacts which are of historical and artistic significance are preserved in them. And the Soviet state has handed all of this over to the communities of believers gratis, for their perpetual enjoyment. In the years of the Great Patriotic War, the fascists--these self-styled "vicars" of the Orthodox faith in Russia--did not shrink from the destruction of the priceless monuments of the ancient peoples of our country, to include cult buildings; nor did they shrink from systematically looting monasteries and cathedrals. Many thousands of artifacts, creations of the artistic genius of the peoples of our country, remain beyond the boundaries of the Motherland to this day. And thousands of buildings blown up by the Nazi barbarians have been restored, owing to the concern of the Soviet state.

The Ukrainian bourgeois-clerical emigration is also taking part in the anti-Soviet actions being organized for the coming jubilee. Banderovites, Ukrainian autocephalists and Uniate clerics are setting up "coordinating committees," holding "scholarly forums," and are organizing press conferences at which they interpret the history of Russia from nationalistic positions. They are trying to prevent Orthodox believers of other nationalities from taking part in the celebration of the millennium of the "Baptism of Rus;" for, they say, when the "Light of Christ" came in the year 988, it came only to the Ukraine; and the other Slavic peoples, and above all the Russians and Belorussians, remained "in a state of pagan ignorance." But it has never occurred to these "scholarly" scribblers that at that time there was neither a Ukraine, nor a Russia, nor a Belorussia; there was a single state--Kievan Rus, the cradle of the Russian, Ukrainian and Belorussian peoples. The history of the ancient Russian state is devoted equally to all the fraternal peoples. And the efforts to sow discord among them, or to declare some of them worthy of the triumphal "Baptism" and others unworthy, are futile.

Ukrainian bourgeois-nationalistic propaganda is assiduously expounding yet another thesis: that in the year 988 Rus did not adopt Orthodoxy, but Catholicism, and consequently believers in the Soviet Union must become oriented toward convergence with the Catholic Church. Clearly, this is an attempt to restore the Uniate Church, which had never existed on the soil of western Belorussia and the Ukraine--a church which besmirched itself by its anti-national, antipatriotic actions during the years of the Great Patriotic War.

The facts of history bear irrefutable witness, that Prince Vladimir brought to his people not Catholicism, but Orthodoxy.

And as far as the attempts to distort the truth about the Uniate are concerned, the Russian Orthodox Church made it very clear in one of the documents adopted at the recent observance of the 40th anniversary of the Lvov Synod. "To our chagrin," we read in it, "Ukrainian Catholics abroad are taking advantage of the great event of the Baptism of Rus--and not to cement peace and fraternal love among the nations. They are distorting historical truth and are casting a pall on the joy of the forthcoming celebration; they are stirring up nationalistic feelings and are sowing religious dissension; and they are fruitlessly trying to restore the Uniate on Ukrainian soil." I don't think one could put it any more clearly.

The Vatican is also attempting to prove its involvement in the "Baptism of Rus." Through its mass information organs and in sermons it is persistently spreading among the believers the idea of the fact that civilization came to Rus not from Byzantium, but from Rome. Things are coming to such a pass that the humanitarian activities of the "enlighteners of the Slavs," Cyril and Methodius, as the papal encyclical "Apostles to the Slavs" asserts, were directed by and sanctioned by Rome. The Vatican hopes to take advantage of the jubilee to activate its "Eastern Policy" to spread Catholicism in the USSR and the socialist countries. Hence its attempts to make advances to various religious organizations in our country, and to incite extremist and nationalistic tendencies among Soviet citizens who are believers. And all of this is hidden by hypocritical declarations purporting that the West is sincerely concerned for the religious needs of Soviet believers, and on preserving the spiritual heritage of "Orthodox Rus." In actuality, however, all these "jubilee activities" of the Vatican are directed toward inciting hostility between believers and nonbelievers, toward undermining the moral-political unity of the socialist society, and toward distorting the policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state on questions of religion.

It is becoming obvious that for some parties in the West the approaching church jubilee is a ready-made pretext for setting in motion a new spiral of anti-Soviet propaganda and stimulating anticommunist hysteria, in the hopes that in this manner they may sow in the minds of the believers the seeds of malice and hatred toward the legitimate organs of power, and besmirch and distort the real status of religion and believers in our country.

However, reality is entirely different. The intrigues of the bourgeois-clerical organizations and centers of ideological diversion have repeatedly been subjected to well-reasoned criticism by the Russian Orthodox Church

itself: "Those in the West who do not wish our Church and the Socialist Fatherland well are endeavoring to utilize the approaching millennium of the Baptism of Rus for unseemly ends, while continuing to unwisely raise the far-fetched question of freedom of conscience in our country." The Russian Orthodox Church, whose peace-making activities have won for it the respect of the world, is approaching the religious jubilee with confidence, and considers it a stage in the service of its nation and the cause of mutual understanding and trust on our planet.

9006

CSO: 1800/284

RELIGION

MSSR ATHEIST EDUCATION NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian 28 Dec 86 p 2

[Article from Moldavian Press Agency: "Make Use of All Kinds of Influence"]

[Text] The state of the religious situation in the republic and the tasks of party, soviet and law-enforcement organs on intensifying atheist education of the populace were discussed at a session of the Ideological Commission of the Moldavian CP Central Committee held on 26 December.

Invited to the session were responsible officials from a number of ministries and departments and from the mass information media; secretaries for ideology; chiefs of the propaganda and agitation departments of several party gorkoms and raykoms, and deputy chairmen of a number of city rayispolkoms.

It was noted at the session that in recent years a certain amount of work was carried out in atheist education of the working people; however, the religious situation in the republic is still complex. This is a result of the fact that instances of campaign tactics and a perfunctory approach to atheist education are still found; there are attempts to evade complicated and acute social problems and phenomena, and to shut oneself off from them by means of general appeals for favorable indicators, and by means of solid figures on the "scope" of activity. The Kutuzovskiy, Kotovskiy, Chimishliyskiy, Vulkaneshtskiy, Komratskiy, Kantemirskiy, Dondyushanskiy, and Kriulyanskiy party raykoms and a number of other party committees are organizing their activities in just such a manner.

Those taking part in the session spoke out sharply and critically on areas of neglect in the work of party, soviet, trade union, and komsomol organs on the atheist education of the workers. The party's demands are not being fully met on this question. As with all ideological work, in atheist propaganda it is important each time to find the optimal combination of mass, group, and individual forms of influence. This work must have a purposeful, comprehensive, and consistent character.

But, the participants noted, in actuality the state of affairs falls far short of the goals. For example, many party committees are overlooking work with parents, and especially with those who consider religious education of their children the norm of family life. The ispolkoms are making poor use of the commissions' capabilities in working with adolescents, and the force of Soviet laws.

Also cited at the session were numerous instances of violations of laws on religious cults, which indicated that party gorkoms and raykoms and the law-enforcement organs quite often do not know the true state of affairs in their localities. The apparatus of the plenipotentiary soviet on religious matters, which is not rendering the necessary methodological assistance in the localities, is seriously underfulfilling its tasks.

It was stressed at the session that party committees, ispolkoms of local soviets, law-enforcement organs, ministries and departments, and mass information media must fundamentally restructure their work on atheist education. Shortcomings, in which propaganda is divorced from reality, must be eliminated; we must put a stop to contemplation and find well-thought-out and effective forms and methods of collective and individual work with the believers.

Serious improvements must be made in training atheist cadres from among the young people; new forms and methods of atheist propaganda designed for young people must be worked out; and work by komsomol organizations is needed. The educational and training process at VUZ's, tekhnikums, and elementary and vocational-technical schools must ensure a more intensive atheist and counter-propaganda slant.

New Soviet rituals must become an effective means for overcoming religiousity. Concern for their introduction is an integral part of ideological work, and is one of the conditions for intensifying the communist education of the working people.

It was noted at the session that a certain amount of work has been carried out of late in this direction; however, the situation is not identical everywhere. With rare exceptions, in the rural areas the rooms for solemn registration of family occasions are in a state of neglect. The republic Ministry of Consumer Services must become more actively involved in solving this problem.

A great deal of attention was devoted to questions of retraining rank-and-file propagandists and lecturers, focusing their efforts precisely on urgent problems of atheist education, and becoming more active in working with the families of believers. They must be supported by women's councils, councils for family and school assistance, trade union committees, and veterans' and mentors' councils. At the same time, the personality of the atheist, his prestige, knowledge, sense of tact, and his ability to win over people, as well as his experience in life, must play a decisive role in improving work with individuals.

It was emphasized at the session that a decisive struggle must be organized against bourgeois-clerical propaganda. The approaching introduction of Christianity to Rus has caused it to become more active. It is trying to take advantage of the religious celebration to make new false statements about the status of religion and the church in the USSR, and to make new attacks on the Soviet laws which regulate the relationship of the state and religious associations.

The mass information media, it was noted at the session, have an important role to play in all atheist and counter-propaganda work. Newspaper editorial boards, journalists, radio and TV must have well-thought-out long-range plans for articles, and must carefully coordinate their activities on these questions.

Also raised at the session were questions on improving the activities of museums of history, art, atheism and local lore, as well as the activities of excursion bureaus.

Speaking at the session of the commission were its chairman, Moldavian CP [CPMo] Central Committee Secretary N.F. Bondarchuk; G.M. Volkov, candidate member of the Buro, CPMo Central Committee; and the administrators of a number of the republic's ministries and departments.

Taking part in the work of the commission was Deputy Chairman of the Moldavian SSR Council of Ministers N.P. Kiriya.

9006

CSO: 1800/284

RELIGION

TaSSR: BETTER ATHEIST WORK AMONG YOUTH URGED

Dushanbe KOMMUNIST TADZHIKISTANA in Russian 21 Dec 86 p 2

[Article by R. Alimov, Tajik Komsomol Central Committee first secretary, under the rubric: "On Atheist Topics": "Don't Go on the Defensive--Attack"; first paragraph is source introduction]

[Text] Among a certain portion of our youth an uncritical, to put it mildly, perception of religious symbols is widespread. Quite often one can spot stickers, calendars, or postcards of a religious nature--even among students who, one would think, could not be reproached for lack of erudition. One even finds some who, in order to possess some wondrous publication from abroad, go so far as to blatantly violate legal normative acts...

Last Spring several tourists from our republic took a Mediterranean cruise: Davron Saidov, a metal worker at the Tadzhikkhimprom [Tajik Chemical Industry] Association and a candidate member of the CPSU; Usmonali Elmurodov, an economist at the 22nd Party Congress Sovkhoz in Leninskiy Rayon, and a Komsomol member; and Makhmadnazar Barotov, also a Komsomol member and a mechanic at the refrigeration plant of Tadzhikmyasomoltorg [Tajik Meat and Dairy Trade Administration]. As is the custom, some acquired souvenirs in memory of their delightful trip; but along with their impressions of the trip, they undertook to bring in religious literature from abroad as well. During customs inspection, however, the literature was properly confiscated.

It's not easy to immediately find an explanation for the actions of persons who were already Komsomol members, and a candidate party member to boot. In any case they themselves were unable to give an intelligible answer to this question. But, I'd like to believe that they were by no means inspired by religious motives--more likely, by reasons of mercantilism, and the desire to get rich through black market deals with believers. But there is another aspect to the question here: Why has demand developed for such articles; and, what is especially surprising--Why among young people?

We are striving toward the goal in which every manifestation of religious leanings among young people would sound an alarm in Komsomol committees, wherein all the surrounding circumstances would be made clear. The problem must not be swept under the rug; what is required is to find the source of the phenomena and to make fundamental changes in the state of affairs. Toward these ends, Komsomol and Pioneer organizations at schools must surround with concern the children from so-called "religious" families.

It seems to me that at times, when conducting atheist work, we proceed from the premise that we must wage a struggle with the believing students. But this is not entirely an accurate formulation; it would be more proper to wage a struggle for the believer. After all, in such a situation the fate of a person is at stake--a person whose philosophy and views are only in the process of formation.

In order to more competently carry out individual work with students from believing families--to know what one is doing--one must possess a broad outlook, and knowledge of not only psychology. Therefore, a system of atheist clubs, corners, and museums should be developed at educational institutions. One would think that where such organizations are large enough, supervision should be bestowed upon scientists, writers and journalists. This would permit raising the level of atheist work in schools and VUZ's, and making its form and contents more varied.

In speaking of restructuring the sphere of atheist education, one must keep in mind one quite important circumstance: the clergy is not sitting with folded arms either; it is striving to take in the changes that are taking place: to adapt itself to the times, so to speak. In other words, their own "restructuring" is also going full speed ahead. In this connection I shall cite an example. In order to attract young people to their sects, Christian sectarians in Dushanbe and Kurgan-Tyubinsk Oblasts have begun to use popular discotheques to their advantage. They have furnished model homes with modern electronic musical instruments and costly audio-visual devices. And all of this for the purpose of attracting more young people.

As we can see, religion is modernizing its rituals, and has literally gotten into step with scientific-technical progress. What stands out vividly in this respect is the fact that in the course of a year young drifters in dungarees can acquire a set of musical instruments for their vocal-instrumental group, and nothing happens. It has become easier to punch a tunnel through solid rock than to acquire the necessary apparatus. We are faced with two different approaches to the same problem--organizing the young people's leisure time.

Do we always properly appreciate the role and place of civil ceremonies in the lives of young people? The Tajik Komsomol Central Committee prefers definite steps in this direction. In conjunction with interested departments, creative unions, and scientific institutions, we have developed an entire, comprehensive program called "Youth Leisure Time."

With the aid of the press we have brought it up for discussion among a broad spectrum of young people.

The program envisages, in particular, holding creative youth days with young people from various oblasts and rayons; developing youth tourism within the republic; resurrecting holidays from folklore on a broad scale; and introducing new rites and rituals connected with nuptials, birth of a baby, or the beginning of one's working life. In this work, Komsomol committees have a right to expect assistance from scientific institutions, and the corresponding commissions at ispolkoms of the soviets of people's deputies.

Life convincingly teaches that one must not underestimate the role of rituals in a young person's life, much less perceive them condescendingly or with a certain degree of irony. Clergymen, for example, take a very serious attitude toward everyday rituals and quite often skilfully use them as a means of separating people on the basis of nationality. The upcoming generation becomes accustomed to this at home and does not readily abandon these pernicious habits even when it enters the VUZ, or upon taking up residence in the capital. It has long been known that dormitory students prefer to choose neighbors on a regional, ethnic basis. In this manner, groups of people from the same locality stand apart and isolate themselves.

Today, it seems to me, one must not sharply deliniate and separate atheist from international education. After all it is not by chance that bourgeois ideologues, at the contemporary stage of the struggle of ideas, have literally been grasping for straws in postulating the activization of the so-called "Islamic factor." They are placing their bets on national aloofness, and on stirring up animosity among people of different creeds and nationalities. The reactionary clergy, no matter what guise it takes, has always been a master in terms of organizing crusades or Jihad. But today it's as if people have simply begun to forget this fact, and when they experience difficulties in the moral-ethical order, they try to find solace in religion. We must give battle to such delusions.

Success in educational work depends largely on the level of preparation, competence and businesslike approach of the ideological cadres. Proceeding from the instructions of the 27th CPSU Congress and with the support of the Komsomol Central Committee, we are training promising young leaders at the country's leading Komsomol organizations. There they are receiving good organizational training, and are becoming steeped in the experience of communist youth education.

Today an absolute majority of the republic's young citizens understands that internationalism in operation is principally honest, conscientious labor in the name of the common good. Many young men and women in Tadzhikistan have felt the call to join the ranks of those who are transforming the Non-Chernozem Zone, Siberia, and the Far East. Since early this year, we have sent more than a thousand young envoys on Komsomol trips for shock work at the nation's construction projects. During the third working semester and the summer school holidays, 3,500 students and upperclassmen from outside the republic have been assisting in the construction of housing, hospitals, clubs and kindergartens. Replacements for the working class of Tajikistan are being trained in the vocational-technical schools of Russia and the Ukraine. Six thousand graduates of secondary schools in our region have started to work in our major industrial centers in this academic year.

Nearly 30,000 young men and women from our republic will become qualified there in the 12th Five Year Plan. One would think that they will learn not only the rudiments of their professions there, but will also receive a clear conception of the Motherland, which is sacred to every Soviet person.

Komsomol committees and primary Komsomol organizations must make it a matter of everyday concern--Nay, they must fight--to overcome the false, illusory impressions among certain young people; impressions which interfere with the development of one's spiritual potential, which shape one's personality. It states in the regulations, that to be a member of the Komsomol means to be both an atheist and an internationalist. But, we are simply not going the same way with those who have forgotten this truth, who are under the thumbs of the mullahs and clergymen, who have begun to pay attention to intoxicating speeches. We have the right to call strictly to account those who have departed from the norms of Komsomol life in this manner. That's the way it has been, and that's the way it shall be.

9006

CSO: 1800/284

CULTURE

BIOGRAPHY OF MIKHAIL BULGAKOV REVIEWED

PM071743 [Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 26 February 1987 carries on page 5 under the headline "Continuation of a Theatrical Novel" a 1,000-word review of A. Smelyanskiy's book "Mikhail Bulgakov in the Arts Theater" (A. Smelyanskiy. Mikhail Bulgakov V. Khudozhestvennom Teatre. Moscow, "Iskusstvo" Publishing House, 1986) by N. Agisheva.

Agisheva opens with a quotation from a poem by Tsvetayeva, saying that Tsvetayeva could not have imagined that her verses would "to a certain extent portray the fate of a whole series of Russian writers who, for various reasons, missed their fame while still alive. For a long time we knew little about them, and now we are making up for this omission, having finally realized that we cannot move and develop further without being aware of our own spiritual heritage in its totality and in all its diversity.

"A special place among the writers whose work and life are being reborn in our days belongs to Mikhail Afanasyevich Bulgakov."

Agisheva reviews at some length the book, which deals with Bulgakov's career and involvement with the Moscow arts theater, saying that it "does more than just cast light on some most interesting and unfairly forgotten pages in theatrical history" and that it depicts "the example of a major artist's loyalty to his own self, to ideals acquired once and for all times, when he could reply with a clear conscience to all the tricks of fate: 'But I have gritted my teeth and am working around the clock.'" No further processing planned.

/8309

CSO: 1800/389

CULTURE

WRITERS DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION IN LATVIA

Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Nov 86 p 2

[Dialogue between Marina Kostenetskaya and Uldis Berzinsh, reported by G. Tselms, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA's own correspondent in Latvia under the "Ideology, Politics, Culture" rubric: "Language Is the Faith of the People..."; first two paragraphs are source introduction]

[Text] Further expansion and intensification of the interaction among literatures of our sister republics, preservation of the riches of our national cultures and growth of our languages are among the issues related to our society's spiritual life which have been at the center of attention during writers' congresses at the republic and all-union level.

Our paper continues this discussion today with a dialogue between Latvian poet U. Berzinsh and M. Kostenetskaya, a Russian writer living in Riga. Both have been doing a great deal to strengthen and develop ties among various national literatures. A knowledge of languages assists them in this. M. Kostenetskaya learned the Chukchi language, for example, while working on the Chukchi Peninsula, and has completely mastered Latvian while living in that republic. In addition to Russian, Uldis Berzinsh knows almost a dozen Turkic languages, as well as three western Slavic tongues, Swedish, English...

[Uldis Berzinsh] I would like to share this observation. In recent years in all our republics, to include the Baltic republics, interest in everything national, in folklore, ethnography, history, in a word, in our "roots," has grown noticeably. The latest writers' congresses serve as a kind of culmination of this. At the same time it looks as though there is an ever increasing need for broad contact among nations. Isn't this the reason for heightened interest in the problems of translation? It would seem these are contradictory tendencies, but I would maintain that there is no contradiction here. It is a two-in-one process. As Yanis Peters said at the Ninth Latvian Writers' Congress, "Interest in things national in no way denotes denationalization." Only a primitive, "primordial" nationalism presupposes interest only in itself. Today, sensing a vital involvement with our own people, we realize all the more strongly and deeply our spiritual, cultural and historical kinship with other peoples of the world. And therefore, our

responsibility for more than just our own national song becomes all the more active. Here is a characteristic example--the Latvian poet Leons Briyedis recites Estonian and Armenian poetry on a trip to Romania.

[Marina Kostenetskaya] I'm going to elaborate on your thought. The NTR [Scientific-Technical Revolution] and the large population migration associated with it, the increase in ties among nations and an intensive, creative exchange all stimulate the development of national things. Isn't this where we've gotten the urge to restore and preserve the best artistic values of the past? It's a protective reaction in its own way -- people don't want to arrive at a gathering dressed in identical fashion. However, I think that the keen interest in national issues can also be explained by the fact that the candidness with which we've finally begun to talk aloud about many sore subjects has grown.

[Uldis Berzinsh] Scientific and technological progress and population migration are becoming factors in the "unification" and even the cosmopolitanization of mankind. Does cosmopolitanism unite people? I doubt it! On the contrary, the national element is the most important unifying factor -- the poetry of Narekatsi, the music of Komitas, the stories of Ayvazyan can bring both the world-renowned Armenian astrophysicist and his neighbor the barber to tears.

One might ask -- what does my one-and-a-half million nation mean when standing in front of the five billion of mankind? But as one wise man said, each nation speaks with God independently. Each people is unique, and the more successfully it interrelates with other peoples, the more of its own individuality it contributes to the culture of all mankind.

Only a few decades ago it seemed possible to get to know the artistic world of another people through the most brilliant flashes of its talent. The accounting went "by masterpiece" -- there is an Ibsen; therefore, there is a Norway in world culture.

[Marina Kostenetskaya] If we're talking about criticism, then up until now it's been going exactly that way. Take our metropolitan magazines. The same authors' names appear issue after issue in articles on contemporary multinational literature. It seems that works that are well-known to the reader are discussed and interpreted in every conceivable aspect. But really, one author, even the most talented, cannot absorb into his creation all the diversity of a national literature.

[Uldis Berzinsh] I think that even today we are seeing an understanding that it's not separate literary entities and personalities interacting, but rather literatures as integral systems (in the words of Latvian critic Nastopki). National literary tradition either brings a poet to life or kills him. We want to translate into Latvian not the "reader" Rasul Gamzatov, well known for his Russian poetic translations, but rather the distinguished poet whose creation has become one of the pinnacles of original Avarian literary tradition. A Latvian (or any other) translation should not be a reflection of

a reflection. Direct contact is necessary, without intermediaries. This is why we are now training specialists who will combine the literary gift with a knowledge of languages.

[Marina Kostenetskaya] And the Russian language certainly helps in this.

[Uldis Berzinsh] Without a doubt. The Russian language has collected and generalized a great wealth of material on comparative grammar, lexicology, style, methods of teaching the languages of the peoples of the USSR, etc. It would be difficult to overestimate the value of the Russian language. But I would have to say that everything is still far from satisfactory with respect to "philological infrastructure." A great number of difficulties await the translator wishing to master a language so as to be able to have direct contact with the literature being translated.

When I began working on translating Chuvash folk songs, I decided to learn the language of these people. I wrote off to everywhere, rummaged through all kinds of book reserves to find a self-instruction manual on Chuvash. It was futile. I was finally able to get a photocopy of a text published in 1930. I never did manage to find a "teach yourself Yakut" handbook. My colleague Yanis Rokpelnis went through a great deal of trouble before procuring "Turkmen Handbook," published in 1929. It was a rare book.

Clearly there are not enough "self-teachers," "phrase books" and dictionaries being published. Most of those that do exist are long since obsolete. There is no systematic presentation -- each one writes and publishes what it can. There's no one to direct and coordinate this work today. Isn't it paradoxical that there are so many language and literature institutes of the union republics' academies of sciences that don't even have departments (faculties, in the universities) of languages and literatures of the peoples of the USSR?

[Marina Kostenetskaya] It seems that the national language is taught only on Estonian television. And in school? Almost everywhere we see the inability to get interested in language and national culture, and a marked understatement of the demands made with respect to student knowledge.

Languages are best mastered from youth. In Latvia, for example, all children study Russian in kindergarten. For that reason it's very seldom you'll find a Latvian who can't speak Russian. A similar experiment was conducted last year with respect to the Latvian language in Russian kindergartens. Alas, as of springtime there are very few such kindergartens left. And it has nothing whatsoever to do with a lack of desire on the part of Russian children to study Latvian. It is rather because we can't get the required number of teachers, lack teaching methods, etc.

[Uldis Berzinsh] Here we can point a finger at the LSSR Ministry of Public Education and LSSR Ministry of Higher Specialized Education.

[Marina Kostenetskaya] There was a time when Latvian was taught in the Russian schools of Latvia on an elective basis. This undoubtedly brought a great deal of harm to international education. Now the subject is pretty much considered mandatory but, like before, many schools simply don't have the

Latvian language teachers, and so diplomas are given out without a grade in this subject. Philological faculties of our university and pedagogical institutes are not training teachers of Latvian for Russian schools. Where are you going to find qualified specialists given such an organization? Russian university graduates, for their part, have not mastered Latvian and are not going to venture out into this area--they would find themselves in total language isolation.

[Uldis Berzinsh] There has been discussion at many union republic writers' congresses as to how the hours devoted to native language and literature are being reduced. This also applies to the Russian language and literature. It may well be that we're not talking about bilingual prospects, but rather the danger of no language at all.

[Marina Kostenetskaya] True. Today we have the seeds of valuable experience and could accomplish a great deal if we made use of them. For example, there have been six annual Latvian-language olympiads for Russian school pupils here in Latvia. Russian children read the verse of 40 Latvian poets, some with an accent, some without. They went from Austri Skuini and Aspazii to I. Ziyedonis and O. Vatsiyetis. The strange thing is that the mass media never found an opportunity to give this any attention. Expressions of applause and ecstasy weren't necessary, but some basic support for a worthwhile endeavor was.

[Uldis Berzinsh] I recently returned from Vilnius where they had a Lithuanian language "summer school" for ten young Latvian poets. A most useful activity! The Lithuanian Writers' Union made the initiative, the Central Committee of the republic's Komsomol provided the resources, and the instructors came from the university. Next summer we're inviting the Lithuanians here for the same kind of event. Of course, you can organize summer schools for people other than poets.

It's gratifying that we're seeing more and more polyglot writers here in Latvia. Knut Skuyeniyeks has learned almost every European language; Leons Briyedis, Klavs Elsbergs, Anna Rantsane and Amanda Ayzpurijete have mastered several languages (and the latter three poets are quite young). Our classic writers have set a good example in this regard as well. Raynis knew Czech in addition to German and Russian. It's well known that Laytsen learned Finnish while translating "Kalevala." Chak and Sudrabkaln were multilingual.

[Marina Kostenetskaya] Language is the strongest bridge one can use to reach the culture of another people. We often decorate the outsides of our homes with slogans about friendship among peoples, and inside those very homes, around the dining room table, we sometimes try to solve the most complex problem. Then we try to generalize an ordinary quarrel on the tram to the level of mutual relations among peoples. In this regard I'd like to say something about my colleagues, the Russian writers living in Latvia. There are some of them who have lived 30 or 40 years in Riga, and they are not only unable to say a single word in Latvian, but they're proud of that very fact.

Lack of respect for the language and culture of the people whose land you've chosen to make home is a sign of lack of culture. I would say that that kind

of writer would hardly be of any interest to the Russian reader. He's sailing along between two shores and never pulling up alongside either one. Right next to him beats the living heart of another people and he does not hear. They talk and sing, write plaintively and recite verse in an unknown tongue. Petr Vyazemskiy, the distinguished Russian poet, said it so well: "Language is the people's religion -- in it you feel their nature, their soul, their way of life."

Of course, there's an exception to every rule. If you have a Russian author who has travelled to a national republic at a ripe age, with an abundance of life experience he is able to utilize, let's say while writing a historical work, then it is quite possible that his books will find worthy readers. Generally speaking, it is not the lack of language knowledge that is so dangerous, but rather the attitude of not wanting to learn.

[Uldis Berzinsh] All the same, a lack of knowledge of language most often leads to isolation.

[Marina Kostenetskaya] Perhaps. But desire alone, even the most fervent desire to study a language, isn't much. And the problem doesn't simply come down to the "philological structure" lagging behind, as we were discussing earlier. You still need the assistance of the people whose culture you're striving to understand; you need their desire, their hospitality, you might say.

Let's say there's some kind of ten-day literature festival taking place in Latvia. There's no end to the sincerely spoken words about love and friendship. We all embrace, sing songs, get ready to perform dances. And that's wonderful! But it's easy to love at a distance. What about loving your neighbor who speaks another language and lives in the same house with you! What about helping him overcome the language barrier and making everyone feel at home!

[Uldis Berzinsh] I agree. There's some alienation today, and it is our fault, the Latvians. We don't learn, we don't communicate, we don't "sit down at the table." It'd be hard to say what there's more of -- modesty or arrogance. It's still probably like that because we tend to see those who arrive as an amorphous "quantity," and not as people.

Marina, you and I visited the Chernobyl area recently and saw homes in the affected zone that people had abandoned. Ukrainian and Belorussian children have found a new home in Latvia as well as in other republics. Well, they must be given the opportunity to continue instruction in their native language. This too is our international responsibility -- we cannot allow children to lose their cultural roots. As far as Russian writers living in other republics are concerned, it seems to me that their problems aren't confined to language alone.

[Marina Kostenetskaya] There are some truly talented Russian writers living in Riga and it must be stated openly -- their situation is not simple. I'm not talking about those who, as we were discussing earlier, are at fault and don't even try to make contact with another culture. I'm referring to others,

who live in the republic "on their own." It's a lot more difficult for them to get published than, say, the Volgograd or Irkutsk writer who stays in his area. The latter has a publishing house -- we have a small editorial staff in a publishing house whose primary responsibility is to publish, in Russian, books by Latvian authors and world classics for the region as part of fulfilling the plan. Not much remains for the Russian writer in the locale. Besides, no matter what his merits, the Russian writer in the republic is usually of no interest to either the local or USSR critic. I am convinced that it should be one's measure of talent alone, and not his nationality, that gives him the right to the attention of publishers and critics.

The Latvian poet Nora Kalna was once performing in Turkmenistan and was asked to talk about the Latvian poets she considered most interesting. Among others she named Lyudmila Azarova. "But she's Russian!" her listeners exclaimed. Well, you know the verse and translations of Azarova are inseparable from Latvia and Latvian literature. One of her books of poetry is entitled "A Strong Latvian Accent."

[Uldis Berzinsh] I must confess -- I would probably react exactly the same way if, let's say, someone told me that Sergey Borodin or Pavel Vasilev were among the distinguished writers of Central Asia. In point of fact their creative achievements belong to the culture of both Russia and Central Asia.

[Marina Kostenetskaya] In my view, the Russian writer in the republic has to be concerned not only with critics and publishers, but also with the attention of his readers. I admit, it's much more difficult for me to make an appearance before a Russian audience than a Latvian one. I usually fail to find the right interest by far.

[Uldis Berzinsh] Ordinary snobbishness is partly to blame for this -- "What's the use of listening to a local author when you have writers such as..." But, generally speaking, the Russian author living in Riga can really compete with Moscow and Leningrad writers only when he sticks to his own field. For example, he can provide details as to how the Russian population in Latvia lives without covering the full complexity of the differences springing from nationality. Or he can treat the problems of Latvians as seen from within, or at close range.

[Marina Kostenetskaya] Now how do publishers, and readers too, regard it if, say, a Russian author portrays a negative Latvian hero in his writing, or attributes some kind of negative trait to the people? The question is not as naive as it may seem. Relations between peoples are a delicate area. There's nothing trifling about it. I remember I once submitted a story entitled "Resentment" to the Russian magazine "Daugava." I had depicted two Latvian drunkards in it. The editors declined to accept the story, fearing that readers "might get the wrong idea." I then had it published in "Tsinya," the Latvian party newspaper. The readers' response turned out to be quite normal. Can it really be that it was a better idea to have it appear in a Latvian publication?

[Uldis Berzinsh] I think the fact that the readers understood your story can be partially explained by virtue of you being your own person in the republic,

and not someone from outside. But in general, restrictions and prohibitions of that kind cannot be allowed in literature. If you were to follow that kind of logic, then tomorrow you would not allowed to have a negative hero who is blind, let's say, because "blind people will be offended," or one who's a redhead ("the redheads will be offended") or from Moscow ("the Muscovites will be offended").

[Marina Kostenetskaya] Yes, of course. It's important that the view be presented not from the side, but from within. The tourist's superficiality is always irritating, even when he's showering you with compliments.

A writer can serve the cause of bringing peoples together not just through his specific literary effort, but also by exerting a personal influence on the micro-climate of national relations. Let's say a Russian writer raises important social issues in the Latvian press, or speaks knowledgeably before a Russian audience on the subject of Latvian literature and art. In so doing he effectively serves the cause of bringing nations together.

And the fact that many graduates of Russian schools in Riga will sometimes not know the names of Latvia's national writers and that their idea of Latvian literature is limited to two or three names speaks poorly not only for these young people themselves, but for us, the Russian writers who failed to arouse any interest in them towards Latvian life and culture, as well.

[Uldis Berzinsh] All of us, without exception, must search for inroads to the soul, the spirit, the native way of life of other peoples. We must look for their "religion." The most important thing is not to hush up such problems! The more candidly and honestly we talk about them, the more quickly we will solve and overcome them.

12511

CSO: 1800/234

SOCIAL ISSUES

RETURNING EMIGRES GREETED AT SHEREMETYEVO

Moscow GOLOS RODINY in Russian No 52, 1986 p 12

[Article by A. Korobov: "I'll Never Forget This"]

[Text] 28 December 1986. Moscow. The Sheremetyevo-2 International Airport. It is already the second time that the delay of flight No 316 from New York to Moscow has been announced. A large group of countrymen--more than 50 people--are to return to the Motherland on it.

People are waiting for them at the airport. Relatives and friends are waiting for them with increased excitement and journalists and reception organizations--the Motherland Society and the Anti-Zionist Committee--are waiting for them impatiently.

Finally the long-awaited melodic chime of the electronic signal announces that the plane has landed. The people waiting begin to move. Relatives try to get closer to the customs exit but the journalists, taking advantage of their rights, calmly walk past the passport control line.

It seems that there are more journalists gathered at this neutral zone than people arriving. Everybody is there: from the USSR--correspondents from TASS, Gostelradio [State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting], and central newspapers; from the United States--NBC, ABC, and other leading television companies, and the NEW YORK TIMES newspaper; as well as the French L'HUMANITE and the Danish LANG OG FOLK--too many to count.

The bright flashes of the cameras lit the face of an older woman, the first to come out to the waiting people. She turned out to be Revekka Katsap:

"I am happy to have returned to the Motherland. Happy. I'm crying with joy. I'm 65 years old. I spent eight of them over there. Thank you to the Motherland for taking us back. There are many like us in the United States and we all want to come home."

The tight group of the journalist fraternity quickly broke up into individual little islands. In the center of one of them Viktor Belchenko made his brief confession:

"I went to the Chernyshevskiy club for many years. They were my type of people there, and it was easier being with them. I helped the club as much as I could. I worked there. And the whole nine years of my life in New York I was a cutting worker.

"From the first days of my stay in America I realized my mistake and felt the extent of the irreplaceable losses. Since that time returning to the Motherland has been my great dream. And now it has happened. I thank our government with all my heart for its kindness and humanism."

He was silent. All the outside sounds stopped too. The first deputy chairman of the presidium of the Motherland Society, Nikolay Aleksandrovich Pankov, addressed a welcoming speech to the persons arriving:

"I welcome our countrymen to the capital of our Motherland--the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics! ("Thank you!" "You saved us!").

"I wish with all my heart to say that you are finally home. That the Motherland remembers you. The Motherland joyfully meets you here today. It will soon be the New Year. I wish you happiness!"

"I agree with the words of Nikolay Aleksandrovich," the deputy chairman of the Anti-Zionist Committee, S.L. Zivs, continues the ceremonial part. "You are now in our native land. Stand firm on it. It will soon be the New Year. Let 1987 be the year of your reuniting with the Soviet people. I congratulate you!" (Applause).

The words of warm sendoff found an abundant response. Despite the fatigue of the many long hours of flying, the people obviously felt a great spiritual lift. Later they had passport control and other formalities, but happy laughter was heard and tears of joy were seen. "I'll never forget this," 16-year-old Karina Klever said to me when she saw her aunt Valya waiting for her. After a 10-year separation it was real happiness for both of them.

12424

CSO: 1800/286

SOCIAL ISSUES

EMIGRE RETURNS TO USSR FROM ISRAEL, SCORES LIFE THERE

Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 8 Jan 87 p 3

[Article by A. Fedorov: "After Zionist Intoxication: This Woman Lost her Health in the 'Western Paradise' and in Exchange Found a Sense of Guilt Toward the Motherland and Those Close to Her"]

[Text] The elderly woman with the gray in her hair nervously pulls at the handkerchief in her hands, often dabbing it to her eyes. Next to her sit her adult children and grandchildren whom she has not seen for 14 years. In the intense quiet which has fallen a police worker hands her a document permitting her to live in our country. She takes it with trembling hands and without holding back tears of joy kisses the green cover of the "Residence Permit for Persons Without Citizenship." After so many years of wandering, as she will say later, "in the inferno in the Promised Land," she is immensely glad of even a residence permit: if only to walk through this land and to breathe its air.

Her relatives stand silently, averting their eyes. They are experiencing a mixed feeling of shame and agitation, bitterness and joy. They cannot forget the bitter experiences and are glad that all that is finally behind them.

In 1972 when Mariya Shmilovna Stekolshchik, ignoring the entreaties of her children and not listening to their arguments and persuasion, went to Israel, her older daughter Raisa was 24 years old, Natalya was 19, and her son Stanislav was 18. They well remember how at that time in this very place, in the department of visas and registration, she haughtily responded to all the kind warnings of the people who wished her and her family well, saying that they all had thought it out carefully, made a firm decision, and would never regret it.

"The first disappointment hit me immediately on arrival at the Tel Aviv airport," Mariya Shmilovna remembers. "Those of us Jews who had arrived from the USSR were met in an unfriendly and rude way there. And the officials smiled insultingly at our requests for more polite treatment and even announced that no one invited us and we could go to the devil.

"After that there were more and more disappointments," M. Stekolshchik continues. "My relatives who had written 'sweet letters' to us for many

years, lavishing praise on the 'delights' of life in Israel told me after several days that you'd have to be a completely naive person not to understand that their letters had in fact been written at the bidding of Zionists. In addition my relatives said frankly that they themselves were hardly making ends meet and that I couldn't count on their help. And then I finally understood what the situation that I found myself in was: alone in a foreign country where the laws of the jungle operate, I was supposed to begin all over from the start without really having any friends or relatives and without any support and no rights to live, to work, to free medical care, or even to elementary respect.

"My life began to be like a bad dream. With great difficulty I found a job as a warehouse worker at a private pharmaceuticals factory where we worked under the vigilant supervision of supervisors, as if in a concentration camp, for 14 hours a day with short 10-minute breaks.

"As is well known, the Israeli army constantly wages predatory wars. The wounded soldiers need blood. And so almost all of us were forced to give a half-liter of blood free of charge every week, and sometimes even more often. It was impossible to refuse. Otherwise, they threatened to fire you. Despite the fact that we were half-starving and worn out from heavy work, they took the blood from us directly at the factory without offering even a cup of soup afterwards.

"So I finally understood that everything good that I'd had in my life was on the other side, in my real homeland without which, it turns out, a person can have no spiritual balance, let alone happiness. And then I made a firm decision to go back even though I already understood that it would be incomparably more difficult than coming to Israel. For every person who ends up there immediately falls into debt slavery to the Zionists. All "services" connected with departure and arrival have to be paid for. And the interest on these debts rises... Returning is also not simple since betrayal is usually not pardoned...

Looking at her grown children, Mariya Shmilovna exclaims:

"How lucky it was that I didn't taken them with me then!"

But the activists of the Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet community who were there when the residence permit was presented reasonably remind her that she was not the one who prevented the possible misfortune of her children. That is to the credit of the Motherland where they were born and grew up and a credit to those people who educated them in kindergartens and in school and to those with whom they work. That is a credit to our Soviet society which indoctrinates moral values such as patriotism, conscience, dignity, and justice. That was what prevented the young people from crossing over the fateful line crossed so easily by their mother, who had been born and lived until she came of age in those places under another social order.

Do you want to know what her children thought and what they said then about what had happened? We have before us one of their letters to the Presidium of the country's Supreme Soviet: "We have been feeling burning shame before

people and our own consciences for 14 years for the fact that our mother did a shameful thing--after betraying the Motherland and all of us, she went to Israel. Her behavior was a spiritual pain for her seven relatives--grown citizens of the USSR--and remains a black mark in the souls of our children."

"Back long before our mother's departure," their letter then said, "she started talking about the whole family leaving. After that our father left her and we announced that we had only one Motherland--the Soviet Union! We also felt guilty that we couldn't do anything with our mother's fanatic desire. But at that time it happened in our family that the youngest sister Tatyana left on a Komsomol trip to the All-Union Shock-Work Construction Site in Khabarovsk, brother Stanislav left to serve in the Soviet Army, and the eldest sister was seriously ill. And our mother decided her fate on her own... "

Today on the happy day of her return to life in her land, Mariya Shmilovna would like to forget what happened 14 years ago, but these words from her children's letter, like the memories of the terrible years spent in a foreign land, can't be erased.

"It took me two and one-half years of heavy humiliating labor to pay off the debts which entangle every person who comes there," she said. "In order to earn this money, in addition to my main job in the factory warehouse, which began at 0600 hours and ended late in the evening, I had to wash clothes, wash floors, and work on the harvest nights. After putting an end to my debt slavery, I appealed to state officials many times with a request to allow me to leave Israel, but they only scoffed at me and then began to threaten me. Then I began to look for other possibilities. Leaving my last belongings, I fled to Austria in the guise of a tourist, hoping to get home from there... "

Upon arrival in Vienna, M. Stekolshchik went to the Soviet Consulate with a request to allow her to return to the USSR. At the threshold of the consulate she met hundreds of people like her who had been deceived by the Zionists and had at one time left our country for imaginary happiness "in the Promised Land" and had found nothing there but humiliation and poverty--material and spiritual.

In her autobiography which has now already been written, in listing where she worked in our country, M. Sh. Stekolshchik silently passes over the 14 years spent in the "Western paradise." And she does not do this out of forgetfulness. She is ashamed of those years. But they still existed and took away her mature years and her health and in exchange left a sense of guilt toward the Motherland and those close to her.

12424

CSO: 1800/286

SOCIAL ISSUES

EMIGRE RETURNEE RUES DECISION TO LEAVE USSR

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 12 Dec 86 p 4

[Article by Z. Safrazyan and Yu. Goldman: "Confession of a Former Soviet Citizen: 8-Year-Long Road to the Homeland"]

[Text] "For me they were lost years, the memory of which causes pain in my heart. I paid a high price for my fatal mistake. A foreign country did not bring me happiness nor prosperity. But the Motherland proved to be kind and genuinely humane toward me. I again found it after lengthy wanderings in Italy and Austria. This time it is forever."

The author of these words, Yuriy Nikolayevich Znamenskiy, is 56 years old, more than 8 of which he spent in a foreign country. His dramatic odyssey resulted in considerable losses, human ones above all. His mother died in Tbilisi without seeing her son and his hopes for a professional career in the West did not come true...

Telling about the reversals of his fate the tall lean man is restrained on the outside; even answering questions which are not easy for him he does not avert his gray eyes. But his self-possession is failing him and it becomes noticeable that he is stammering and begins to smoke cigarette after cigarette, nervously crushing the cigarette butts in the ashtray.

"They say a man forges his own happiness. I realized the truth of these words in my own experience. I was born in Tbilisi. I graduated from two VUZes here--the polytechnical VUZ (my first specialization was builder) and the theatrical VUZ. I worked as an engineer and an actor in the theater and at a film studio. After I got married I moved to Leningrad. My daughter and son were born there. I was a second director, an assistant, and I was in films. But in the depths of my soul I remained dissatisfied with the way my creative destiny was developing. I believed that I could do and was worth more.

"By that time people had appeared among my wife's friends who saw life in the West in an entirely rosy light. There were others who were already 'sitting on their suitcases.' At first the talk of the people who had given in to the Western freedoms publicized by the 'radio voices' passed by my ears. But they were imprinted in my soul. And, of course, I could not escape the Hollywood stereotype of the "luxury" life since I had seen quite a few such films while

working at the film studio. So the decision to leave the Soviet Union was born.

"At first I myself left so I spent the first seven months all alone in a foreign country. It's possible that was for the best: nothing softened the impressions of the 'paradise' toward which I had been striving so hard--neither the support of friends nor the warmth of family. I looked at the Western way of life not with the eyes of a tourist but from within. The fate of a man who had voluntarily chosen the destiny of emigre proved to be bitter.

"Fate taught me the first lesson in Rome where I arrived from Vienna. My capital was 126 dollars, issued from a special fund for emigres. That was hardly enough money to live. The unheated room with the damp, moldy walls which I rented on Piazza Bologna cost 100 dollars a month. That amount had to be deposited for the shoddy furnishings. Sitting in the uncomfortable refuge, alone with myself, I remembered with anguish the Leningrad home which was far away and unattainable for me.

"A large part of earnings as a rule goes for living space in the West. I'm not judging just by my own experience. Chance brought me together with Daniel Sabashvili, an acquaintance from Tbilisi. He's huddling together with his wife and child in Paris in two little rooms with a total area of 12 square meters and a two-meter kitchen. The walls are dilapidated and the ceiling leaks. Of the 2,000 francs which Daniel gets working in French television, two-thirds goes to pay for housing space.

"Incidentally, in the same place, in the capital of France I saw with my own eyes the notorious 'kloshars'. I remembered what I read, it seems, in the journal SCIENCE AND LIFE about the "romantics" of Paris who love to sleep on the street in the warmth of a bonfire. Reality is much simpler and more terrible. They are people who have stopped fighting for life. They have no housing or sustenance and exist on incidental crumbs. Their lodging for the night is under a bridge or if they're lucky in ventilation grates from which stench wafts along with heat.

"I will not be dishonest: we knew that housing space was expensive in capitalist countries even before we went abroad. Like other truths, by the way. However, we had to discover them anew, not through books, television broadcasts, someone's stories, which we considered propaganda, but, as they say, "through our own skin." We grasped the main truth of the "democratic" and "free" society: it is the bank account that above all determines the rights and freedoms of the citizens and the value of the human individual there. But we couldn't even dream of that. In Italy, for example, by the time I arrived there were 8 million unemployed. Of their own people. So who needs foreigners!

"I made ends meet with chance earnings and lived on nothing but potatoes for many days. It's no wonder that with such a way of life I began to have trouble with my health. A dental abscess swelled up. The contents of my purse naturally prompted the address of the cheapest polyclinic. I had to get up at 0400 hours in order to be in time for its opening on the outskirts of the city. By the way, traveling one-way by bus from my home cost about a ruble,

converted to Soviet money. I didn't get in the first time: there were quite a few people like me there. I was lucky enough to get a stub to see the doctor the next day. I had to pay for the visit.

"I was lucky again. I had an acquaintance, a Pole. He worked at a slaughterhouse and he slipped and did something to his leg, the pain was intolerable. He went to the hospital and to another and to a third--they wouldn't take him anywhere: there was no one to pay. That's the way of things there. If you call an ambulance, the doctor first must be convinced that the patient is solvent. Otherwise don't expect help. Yes, you have to pay your bills in full there, and not just financial ones. Many former Soviet citizens make ends meet in the beginning by selling their cameras, binoculars, and souvenirs brought from home--whatever they can. The money they make doesn't last long. They do what they have to do. Some engage in small trade and do time-work. There are also those who earn their living by stealing and become thieves and drug addicts, and lower themselves to slandering their former Motherland because they're paid for it.

"In those years I had quite a few meetings with emigrants from Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Surami, Bukhara, and Tashkent... Some had left more than 10 years before and they still hadn't gotten used to customs which they couldn't understand or accept. The hope to return, by which they live, helped me to survive too.

"At home, in the Union, we got so used to the fact that the state guarantees Soviet people the right to work, to rest, to education, and to protection of the individual that we accepted this as our due and took it for granted. However, comparison reveals the truth. There in a foreign country insight came quickly.

"I never hid that I wanted to go back, and this did cause me problems. After one of the lectures for emigres in Vienna (the well-known anti-Soviet organization NTS [Narodno-Trudovoy Soyuz] holds them regularly), they tried to throw me down the stairs. Disagreeing with the slanderous fabrications against the Soviet Union was not to the liking of the organizers.

"An equally mysterious story happened in Rome. One time in the summer walking along the street I felt a prick in my shoulder. My head started spinning and things started swimming in front of my eyes. Several people dragged me into a car and tried to force me to sign some papers. I lost consciousness. I regained consciousness on a bench in a remote park.

"At times they resorted to outright blackmail. Once I asked for a loan from one of the former Soviets. Some time later I repaid the debt. But after 3-4 years, when returning to the Motherland became a reality, this man suddenly appeared at my apartment with others, demanding interest for the debt that had been repaid long ago. It was obvious that he was heading for a scandal. I'll say openly that I was very frightened. After all, he could involve the police in this matter and then my departure could have fallen through. I gave the blackmailer all my cash. I was afraid even at the station. I calmed down only when the train to Moscow started moving."

I was afraid. That phrase is often heard on the lips of Yu. Znamenskiy, especially when the talk turns to his children.

"I tried to do everything possible to make sure that a pure, unsullied picture of the Motherland remained in their memory. After all, my daughter and son left it when they were very young.

"My daughter is now 18. She is studying in one of the gymnasiums which are considered "second-class" in Austria. Education is by no means set up in the best way there. And in places where instruction is done on a modern level, you have to pay a great deal of money to study. I couldn't afford it. Many things surprised me as a parent in the Austrian schools. Imagine, they have special smoking rooms for the children there...

"My heart aches when I think of my son. He hasn't read one book; he only dreams about how to get rich, whom it would be profitable for him to deceive and wrap around his finger, and what to earn money from. But after all, the kid's only 14 years old. I'm afraid that I'm helpless there. For children grow up in an atmosphere of profit, they learn it in school and it's drummed into their heads at every step.

"Yes, I'm guilty before the Motherland and before my own children whom I deprived of it. But I will fight for them to the extent I can. My conscience and duty to people demands it.

"Let my unsuccessful fate serve as a lesson and force those who plan to leave the Motherland to think about it. I am deeply convinced that the more people who, like me, return home, the fewer emigres from the Soviet Union there will be."

12424

CSO: 1800/286

SOCIAL ISSUES

EMIGRE RETURNEES FAULT ZIONISTS FOR LURING THEM OUT OF USSR

Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 17 Jan 87 p 4

[Article by A. Goldenberg, Azerinform correspondent: "The Collapse of Illusions"]

[Text] "It's difficult to convey the emotion which seized me the moment our plane touched ground at the Sheremetyevo airport. I was ready to kiss that ground, the ground which I had left of my own will, which I wanted to forget but couldn't. How much that mistake cost me. The years spent in a foreign country left a bleak print on my heart."

Valentin Agazarov, with whom we are speaking in the consulate department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the republic is still a young man. He's 36 years old. He spent seven of those in a foreign country, more than a third of his conscious life.

"Those dreary years," he continues after a minute of thought, "stretched on interminably long. The losses I suffered in leaving the Soviet Union were irreplaceable. I left relatives--my father, brother, sister--and I lost friends and my native home. Finally, I lost the Motherland. And that was the most terrible thing. I didn't find a second homeland across the ocean in the United States, and I understood that there are no two homelands. I have been justly punished for not realizing that immediately, punished by life. The Motherland proved to be humane toward me."

Meeting the persistent requests of V. Agazarov and a group of other former citizens of the USSR who had yielded to Zionist and other foreign propaganda, the Soviet state allowed them to return to the native land.

It is difficult for me to pick the words to express the gratitude for the opportunity offered to return to my native hearth and expiate, if that's possible, my guilt, correct a fatal mistake which led me to that strange and hostile world.

Yes, I believed the propaganda hostile to our country and I swallowed the bait of 'Voice of America' and other radio voices which gave a rose-colored picture of 'sweet' life in the United States. All that proved to be a castle

in the air, a house of cards which fell down as soon as I crossed its threshold.

"I finished the 10th grade in Baku and received a good specialization--I became a tailor and a cutter, I had a pretty good job and I earned a decent wage. There were more than enough jobs--good craftsmen are needed in any of the city's sewing shops. After I got to New York, I understood what looking for work meant. When I managed to find it I had to earn every dollar with heavy, exhausting labor. If I mentioned that I wanted to go back to the Soviet Union, I immediately lost the job.

"Once the immigration authorities sent for me. A certain gentleman who used to talk politely with me offered me the tempting position of designer model, which I could only dream of. They demanded rather little of me for this: perform certain "uncomplicated" errands for the secret service and slander the Soviet Union.

"So I didn't become a model. Despairing of finding work in the United States, I went to France, to Lyon, but they had enough of their own unemployed there, who needs foreigners!

"The problem of housing appeared for us who had left the USSR even on the way to the United States, in Rome, where we had to stay for 2 months. The pittance issued from the special fund for emigres was hardly enough for food. A person had to pay 100 dollars a month--almost all the allowance--for the poorest, dampest room. With anguish I remembered my far-off and unattainable Baku home.

"In New York I saw beautiful residential buildings. They had been empty for years, waiting for lodgers. Not only a poor person couldn't afford to pay the apartment rent for them, but even the average American. On the other hand, the "warm" places under the cities' bridges were all occupied. That's the 'housing' for the homeless. They sleep in cardboard boxes after wrapping themselves in rags. I read in the American newspapers that there are hundreds of thousands of these homeless in the United States. In Washington there is even a social organization that gives them aid.

"Yes, the truth that you have to pay for everything is as old as the world. We also paid heavily for our mistakes. Having come face to face with the foreign pitiless world, we understood that we had left our apartments offered free of charge by the state, free education, free medical care, trips to sanatoriums... We had accepted all this as our due. And only after going abroad did we understand what we had lost. The collapse of illusions soon began. Sobering up was bitter. We quickly understood that money determines the value of the human individual in the United States. The notorious 'freedom' and 'unlimited opportunities' which the radio voice had talked of over and over again were not for us. Most of the emigres from the Soviet Union feel lost in this strange country, like superfluous people whom no one needs. They prove to be outcasts in a society which does not hide that it isn't too interested in them, in a society where the cult of power flourishes. I myself experienced that when the thieves who stopped me in the evening on a New York street took my last dime.

"Another time I even got a bullet in my side. I think that it was the work of the hands of the terrorists from Zionist circles in revenge for kind words about the Soviet Union and the desire to return to the Motherland. Murder, robbery, violence are just as normal events in the United States as the Coca-Cola or the hotdogs they sell from hawkers' stands on the streets. And nonetheless, I couldn't imagine that an attempt on the life of a man, even an immigrant, could arouse no response from the New York authorities and the police. Not even the smallest attempt was made to find the people who had shot me. Not even an elementary investigation of this crime was conducted. Obviously, a man's life is cheap in a country where thousands of people die from firearms every year.

"I ended up in the hospital after I was wounded. Finding out who I was, the doctors began to treat me scornfully and tried to get rid of me as quickly as possible and discharged me before I was completely well.

"After returning from the hospital I sensed that my telephone was bugged and my boss looked at me askance.

"Average Americans have a very confused idea of the USSR. The newspapers, radio, television, and movies cram them full of cock-and-bull stories about our country. But they are very interested in it. I tried to tell the truth to my colleagues at the sewing shop, but many people didn't like it. They forced me to keep silent.

"Living became more and more difficult every day. Time passed and foreign, unaccustomed views and customs, foreign culture, language, and way of life remained foreign. I often met other emigres from the Soviet Union during those seven years. Many of them had the same feelings as I did. And they lived with the hope of returning to the USSR. But there were also those who decided to do business in treachery. For slander is paid for in the United States and they slander the country they were reared in and their former friends and acquaintances who didn't want to leave the Motherland with them."

He puts a small oblong white booklet on the table. It is a passport for travel issued to V. Agazarov to return to the Soviet Union.

"This will be the last trip across the ocean for me," he says. "I'm happy that I've returned to the Motherland, that once again I can visit my mother's grave and embrace my father. I will be grateful my whole life for that."

A former Baku resident Raisa Vaysman, a repatriate from Canada, began her story of the years spent a long way from the Motherland with the same words.

"Like many others, I left the Soviet Union at the sham appeal of imaginary Israeli relatives," she says. "The Zionist propaganda which to my misfortune I believed took me, not a young woman, off on a distant journey. I understood my mistake very quickly. With a heavy heart I left the country where I had grown up, studied, worked, and spent 54 years, where I left my two brothers--invalids of the Great Patriotic War. Already in Italy the truth of what I had

done reached my consciousness and I put in a request to be allowed to return to the Motherland. But it proved easier to leave than return.

"Staying in Toronto confirmed in me every day the idea that I couldn't live without the Motherland. I greedily devoured the news which came from across the ocean. All my free time, and I had a lot of it since no one needed an elderly bookkeeper of my years, I spent at the Canadian-Soviet friendship club. Soviet newspapers, books, films, and radio broadcasts were the last little thread which tied me to the Motherland.

"The idea that no one needed me--either as a worker (an old one) or as a person--oppressed me. I got ill with diabetes. But it was difficult to get treated on my miserly allowance. I also saw some tears in many other other emigre families. The Zionists ruined these people by enticing them to the West. Some of them committed suicide, others lost their way and became alcoholics and drug addicts. In Canada the crime rate is high, prostitution abounds, and the kidnapping of children is widespread. It's impossible, of course, to get used to all this and I continued to try to get permission to return to the Motherland.

"I put in my declaration at the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa three times and now I'm home. There is probably no greater happiness than setting foot on your native land again. Let those who are perhaps still yearning for the West think about that, and let my sad example remind them that a person has only one Motherland."

12424

CSO: 1800/286

SOCIAL ISSUES

USSR DEPUTY PROSECUTOR GENERAL INTERVIEWED ON VIDEO CRISIS

PM081747 [Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 February 1987 First Edition carries on page 6 an unattributed interview with USSR Deputy Prosecutor General S. Shishkov entitled "Screen Poison." Shishkov explains that the amendment to the criminal code last year making it a criminal offence to propagate the cult of violence was introduced to fill a loophole in the law. He points out that videos are smuggled in by Soviet citizens as well as foreigners. He notes that even when people do not set out to make a profit from showing videos it often turns into a way of making easy money and is moreover usually accompanied by other crimes--currency fraud, speculation, and so forth. He stresses how videos showing pornography and violence can undermine moral values and lead to crime--drunkenness, drug addiction, and prostitution. He also says that such films often contain "blatant anticommunism and anti-Sovietism." Specific cases and the legal penalties prescribed are cited. He also "regretfully" acknowledges that part of the problem is that there is a "shortage of interesting, quality Soviet-produced videos available."

/8309

CSO: 1800/372

SOCIAL ISSUES

LITHUANIAN CP DISCUSSES SOCIAL SCIENCE TEACHING IMPROVEMENT

Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 11 Dec 86 pp 1, 3

[Report by the Lithuanian Telegraph Agency on republic conference on the social sciences: "The Social Sciences: Tasks Dictated by the Time"]

[Text] The solution of the historic tasks of acceleration depends to a large extent on the firm establishment of a strong link between ideology and life, the unity of word and deed. The theoretical activity of the specialists in social science is becoming a most important means in the process of reorganization and the ideological and political training of the workers. It encourages the creative realization of new life phenomena and processes, the accelerated progress, and the cultivation of adherence to the ideas of Marxism-Leninism and to our socialist Fatherland.

The tasks set at the All-Union Conference of the Heads of the Departments of Social Sciences of the VUZ's were discussed at a republic conference, held on 10 December in the Lithuanian CP Central Committee, to which the rectors and pro-rectors of the VUZ's, the secretaries of the party and Komsomol organizations, and the teachers of the social science departments were invited. The following also took part in the conference: The secretaries of some gorkoms and raykoms of the party, the responsible officials of the Council of Ministers of the republic, the Central Committee of the Komsomol of Lithuania, and the executives of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education of the republic, the LiSSR Academy of Sciences, the Institute of the History of the Party attached to the Lithuanian CP Central Committee, the Vilnius Higher Party School, and other scientific and educational institutions of the republic.

The following were present at the conference: Comrades P. P. Grishkyavichus, V. K. Mikuchauskas, N. A. Mitkin, V. V. Sakalauskas, R. I. Songayla, L. K. Shepetis, V. A. Berezov; the sector chief of the Department of Science and Educational Institutions of the CPSU Central Committee, N. A. Slamikhin; the chief of the Department of Science and Educational Institutions of the Lithuanian CP Central Committee, S. Yu. Imbrasas; and the chief of the Main Administration of Institutions of Higher Education of the USSR Ministry of Secondary and Specialized Education, V. V. Nashivochnikov.

The conference was opened with an opening address by the first secretary of the Lithuanian CP Central Committee, P. P. Grishkyavichus.

Of great political significance, said comrade P. P. Grishkyavichus, is the All-Union Conference of the Heads of the Departments of Social Sciences, held in October of this year.

In a speech of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, comrade M. S. Gorbachev, at this conference, a comprehensive and fundamental assessment of the state of the social sciences was made and the tasks of their further development were outlined. It has become an actively mobilizing program of the party organization and the collectives of the republic's specialists in the social sciences.

The goal of our conference is to map out concrete ways of improving the scientific and pedagogical activity of the social science departments of the VUZ's in the republic and the increase of their socio-political role, especially in the improvement of the ideological training of highly-skilled specialists.

The party organization of the republic has always given a great deal of attention to the selection and training of social science teachers and to the intensification of their influence on the formation of communist convictions of students, which has produced positive results.

At the present time, more than 450 social science teachers are working in the VUZ's of Soviet Lithuania--of whom more than 60 percent have academic degrees and status. Many of them have a good understanding of the requirements of the day and endeavor to make an active contribution to the practical realization of the political course outlined by the 27th Congress of the party.

Unfortunately, behind the overall good results, quite a number of unutilized reserves are also concealed.

The Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, the party gorkoms, and the directors of the VUZ's continue to show too little concern in seeing to it that skilled social science teachers are distributed more evenly and that all of them intensively and effectively conduct pedagogical, scientific and social work.

The collectives and departments of the social sciences, too, have by far not done everything in this regard. Quite a number of teachers in the social and political disciplines worked actively in the propagation of the decisions of the 27th Party Congress, but in many cases they still have not reorganized their activity in accordance with their demands. Up to now, some teachers in social science departments display sluggishness in thinking and an inclination to abstract education and the formal illumination of questions.

At the All-Union Conference of the Heads of the Departments of Social Sciences of the VUZ's it was noted that, in the course of the reorganization of the pedagogical activity of social science teachers, the main thing is to coordinate it in the closest manner with practice, with the topical problems of accelerating the development of all spheres of the life of our society.

Addressing himself to the social science teachers at the conference, comrade M. S. Gorbachev emphasized: "On your work in educating and training students

in many respects depends to what degree future engineers, agronomists, physicians and teachers will be able to combine knowledge on the level of the highest achievements of modern science and professional competence with ideological conviction, political maturity, high morality and social activeness."

To carry out this task with honor is the most important duty of the social science teachers of the VUZ's.

We must achieve that all studies in the social sciences become a source of enrichment of the spiritual world of the students and of the cultivation of their active civic position. At the same time, it is extremely important to raise the scientific activity of the departments of these disciplines to a qualitatively new level as well.

The social science teachers of the republic's VUZ's are obligated to bring about a considerable activization in the scientific analysis of the multifaceted tasks of acceleration, to confidently approximate their research to the concrete demands of life, and to introduce better-grounded recommendations for party and Soviet organs and collectives of the VUZ's. Inactivity cannot be accepted here.

Numerous and difficult tasks confront our social science teachers. Today we are taking counsel on how to solve them more effectively.

L. K. Shepetis, secretary of the Lithuanian CP Central Committee, gave a report on the tasks of social science teachers.

The acceleration of the economic and social development of the country, along with the other tasks, required also the reorganization of higher education, he said. A significant part of the responsibility for the successful solution of this task rests with the social science teachers.

In the republic's VUZ's there are 39 departments of social science in operation, with 439 teachers. Approximately 60 percent of them have academic degrees and status. This is a considerable intellectual and scientific-pedagogical potential, which nevertheless is not being utilized sufficiently effectively.

The basic task of the reorganization of higher education is a significant increase in the effectiveness of the system of the training of specialists and their skill improvement and at the same time the improvement of their utilization in the national economy. The entire educational and training process must be aimed at the profound mastery of the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, the formation of firm ideological and moral qualities of the students, and the active enrichment of their spiritual world.

The responsibility for the solution of these tasks rests, without exception, with all workers of the higher school, but the social science teachers bear a special responsibility. Through joined efforts it is necessary to attain that every student has a deep awareness of the general line of the domestic and foreign policy of the party and in his future professional activity is ready to make a practical contribution to the acceleration of the socio-economic development of the country. The social science departments must reorganize their

work in such a way so as for the students to clearly sense the dynamic nature of the reorganization of the higher school itself, the novelty of views, and the preciseness of valuable orientations. Everything necessary must be done so that the higher school is ruled by the cult of knowledge, so that favorable conditions are created for the students who are studying well and with excellent results.

Regardless of the fact that progress in the social sciences is rather high, the knowledge of one-third of the students is evaluated as fair. The social science teachers, together with the teachers of the basic disciplines, are obligated to bring about a qualitative improvement in the methodological and theoretical training of students, to form skills of theoretical thinking, and to develop a creative approach to the problems of their specialty.

In the entire ideological activity of the party after the April CPSU Central Committee Plenum and, in particular, after the 27th CPSU Congress, a decisive change is observed in the direction of the strengthening of the link between ideology and life, in the unity of words and deeds. However, the improvements in the sphere of the teaching of social science in this direction are inadequate. In the studies of the social sciences frequently still only theoretical problems are being analyzed, which--at times even artificially--are separated from real life. In persistently, and sometimes even excessively, striving to emphasize the thesis concerning the objective character of the development of society, it is possible to obtain also negative results of such activity--the student learns that it is not at all necessary to wage an active struggle for the consolidation of the achievements of socialism.

Social science teaching that is cut off from reality is transformed into abstract education that orients the student only toward examinations. At the All-Union Conference it was emphasized that there is a lack of Leninist truth in the teaching of social science. It is necessary to bring about a decisive change in this situation. These questions must constantly be reviewed at department meetings, and the party committees of institutions of higher education must give more attention to them. The scientific analysis of current events in our country and abroad must be organically brought into the content of studies in the social sciences. It is necessary for students to obtain, in their studies, the answer to all the questions that interest them, for the social science lectures to have a clearly-expressed conceptual and methodological character, and for the communication taking place at them to proceed on a scientific level, as with independently thinking individuals. Every seminar must take place in the form of open and lively discussions, by means of the opposition of different views and their well-reasoned assessment. You see, in the seminars the skills of public speaking, the high standards of polemics, and the ability to apply the dialectic-materialist method in professional and public activity are formed best of all. For this, one needs to have a thorough knowledge of every student, his views, his information environment, and his psychology. For this, finally, it is necessary for the social science teacher, not to try to conceal his personal fundamental position under the cover of an imaginary objectivity, but to express it openly. Only in this way will it be possible to direct the efforts of the social sciences into the requisite channel, to disseminate them correctly, and also to select individually the most effective forms and methods of pedagogical activity.

During the period of the reorganization, the speaker underscored, the daily, frequently petty, surveillance and control over the work of social science teachers must be replaced with an assessment of the final results of their activity. Only then will it become clear who is working effectively and who is merely creating the impression of good work. The activity of the young specialist after graduation from the VUZ must become the best criterion of the assessment of such work. It is not news that former students or even graduates of higher schools, after having attended a full course on Marxism-Leninism and having successfully passed all the examinations in the social sciences, are not able to assess a concrete situation from class positions and sometimes violate the norms of socialist life. But if we subject young specialists to such reproaches, we thereby also subject you, the educators of the academic youth and the ideologists of the party.

The social science teachers are carrying out rather significant work, the speaker noted. During the 11th Five-Year Plan they prepared and published 44 monographs, took part in the preparation of 29 collective works, and published almost 2,000 works in various publications. However, many teachers and even whole departments are still studying petty subjects that are without practical significance. The heads of departments are obligated to make a thorough analysis of the contribution of every department member to scientific research work and not to permit that persons, who are evading doing scientific work or are even incapable of doing it, are able to hide behind the backs of productive and creative scholars. It is no less important for the ideas set forth in the scientific works to be effectively realized in the form of scientifically grounded and constructive recommendations to the appropriate departments, in the activity of party and economic organs, and in the practice of ideological and cultural institutions. It is also necessary to do a better job of coordinating scientific research.

The reorganization of the work of the higher school and the departments of social sciences depends to a significant degree on the party guidance of this difficult process. The party committees of the higher schools have sufficiently good practice of work in this sphere. But it is necessary to improve it in the future as well. One of the most important forms in which the concern of the party committees about the ideological maturity of social science teachers is manifested is the party certification. However, it is by far not practiced in all higher schools.

It is necessary to show great concern for the living conditions of teachers and the technical base of teaching.

The social science departments and the large teaching collective can and must do everything to see to it that an atmosphere of efficiency and exactingness, friendly criticism and self-criticism, mutual understanding, and unity of words and deeds reigns in the VUZ's. Only in this way is it possible to unite the collective of the republic's educators for the solution of the tasks set by the 27th CPSU Congress and to reorganize the educational and training process in such a way that the specialists being graduated correspond to the requirement of the time.

G. K. Zabulis, the LiSSR minister of higher and secondary specialized education, gave a speech on the directions of the reorganization of the VUZ's and the secondary specialized educational institutions.

Speakers at the conference included the head of the Department of Political Economy of the Kaunas Polytechnical Institute imeni Antanas Sniechkus, Yu. Yu. Urbonas; the head of the Department of Marxism-Leninism of the LiSSR State Conservatory, E. Yu. Baltinene; the head of the Department of Scientific Communism of Vilnius State University imeni V. Kapsukas, A. I. Sizonov; and the department head of the Vilnius Engineering and Construction Institute, Yu. V. Mureyka.

8970

CSO: 1830/234

REGIONAL ISSUES

POLLUTION IN LENINGRAD OBLAST CAUSES HEALTH PROBLEMS

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 9 Jan 87 p 3

[Letter and commentary under the rubric: "The Black Sea. What Are We Risking?"]

[Text] Dear Editors! We are writing to you as a performance of our medical and civil duty in connection with the circumstances that have evolved in our city.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA and other central newspapers have written about the reasons that led to the responsible decision to close the Priozersk Paper Pulp Plant which for many years has been polluting the Ladoga Lake with its waste products. That pollution has threatened the water supply not only of Priozersk but Leningrad as well. That decision took place three months ago, and during all that time there have been debates about what to do next with the enterprise. As you know, no conclusive decision has as yet been taken. However, we are familiar with the position of the Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry which is attempting to reopen the plant at all costs, even if only at half capacity.

As specialists we declare that the plant must not be reopened now neither at 50 nor 5 percent capacity.

We remind you about what your newspaper has already written. For many years the population of our city has been getting water which contains significant amounts of chemicals that can cause a whole series of diseases. Lake Drozdovo and the Shchuchiy and Rybnyy bays (just listen to those names! -- at one time fish could be caught here practically barehanded) which have now been turned into sedimentation tanks are giving off hydrogen sulfide and mercaptan at concentrations that significantly exceed the permissible limits, and the maximum permissible limits of sulfur dioxide at the plant's acid-curing shop have been exceeded by 60 to 90 times! We don't want to frighten people with figures (although we do have them available) about the number of illnesses that have been directly connected with the plant's production operations. The most frightening thing is that the children are the first to suffer from high concentrations of atmospheric pollution. The children who live within the plant's pollution zone are not only more frequently ill than their counterparts elsewhere, but their physical and age development are also retarded. They start to

talk and sit later and have a smaller thoracic capacity. All of this has been statistically confirmed by reliable data from the Leningrad Sanitation-Hygiene Medical Institute...

After the Priozersk Paper Pulp Plant was shut down last year, the residents of the city immediately felt the difference. In particular, there was an improvement in the quality of tap water (although on the day this letter was written, the data from the SES [Sanitary and Epidemiological Station] indicated that the situation was far from satisfactory). But today we are asked once again to make a choice between the health of the people and the exploitation of long since obsolete plant which, in addition to everything else, is cut off from its raw material base.

We, physicians, believe that there is can be no question about a choice here.

V. Ivchenkov, V . Voronina, I. Zanina, A. Mekhovskaya, and other physicians of Priozersk (total of 44 signatures)

Leningrad Oblast

Inquiry Directed to the Chief Sanitation Physician of the USSR

Once again it is necessary to return to the fate of the Priozersk Paper Pulp Plant. Economic planners have actually succeeded in getting approval for the plant to operate at 50 percent capacity "on the condition that circumstances are normalized."

One has to admit that it is impossible to have any objections to those conditions. But the responsibility (and it was considerable!) for the plant's closure was personal. We know the names of the persons who put their signatures to this difficult decision and published their names in the newspaper. We probably should also name the persons who considered the measures taken to clean up the situation at the Ladoga Lake as proposed by the Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry to be sufficient, in spite of all the warnings made by highly reputable specialists, and particularly those expressed in the press (after our October 19 issue about the Priozersk Paper Pulp Plant, there were articles in PRAVDA, SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA, and LITERATURNAYA GAZETA about this subject). Thus, in response to our edition, the director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Limnology, Academician A. Treshnikov, emphasized that the "cosmetic" plans of the Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry were a luxury that we could no longer afford. There is an absolutely essential need to restructure the plant so it can operate on a non-waste basis. This can only be done by halting the plant's operations completely. By acting favorably on the ministry's plan we may very quickly be confronted by irreversible consequences.

The warnings of the scientists were ignored. The "normalization of conditions" was approved under the signature of the former USSR Minister of Health S. P. Burenkov (not very long before his retirement) who earlier strongly opposed any half-measures with respect to Ladoga, with statements that also appeared in our newspaper. But does that mean that the position of the country's sanitation-epidemiological service has changed? We put that question to the Chief Sanitation Physician of the USSR, USSR Deputy Minister of Health G. N. Khlyabich. Here is his reply:

"No, in spite of all, our viewpoint has not changed. Because the set of measures presently proposed by the Ministry of Timber, Paper and Pulp, and Wood Processing Industry will not guarantee the required normalization of the conditions and a significant reduction in the adverse affects on public health. Moreover, one must not forget. This is not only a matter of just Priozersk. As before, no one can guarantee that one fine day the Ladoga contaminants will not show up in the Neva. We are examining this question very carefully. I myself have been to Priozersk twice in the last three months and with all seriousness repeat: We cannot today remove the seal from the plant's gate."

--So far the plant is idle. Who will remove the seal?

6289

CSO: 1800/283

REGIONAL ISSUES

GREATER CONCERN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION URGED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Jan 87 p 1

[Article: "Responsibility to Nature. More Attention to Ecological Problems"]

[Text] Behind the academically dry definition "ecological" are problems that relate not only to our well-being and quality of life, but there are also moral problems. For what purpose do we live and work on our land? Merely to provide ourselves with heat, a roof over our head, and our own vital pleasures? Are we giving any thought to those who today provide us with our most important joys, our children and grandchildren, and are thinking about their future and our distant future progeny? They will have to live on this land. They will not understand us if we don't leave them the song of the nightingale, sweet cool springs, the life-giving water of rivers, and a clear blue sky.

Humans are inherently imbued with a thirst for creativity and invention. The materials for such endeavor are our natural resources and the workshop is nature itself. A person would cease to be human if he submitted to principle of not touching anything in nature. But he would also lose the proud title of "reasonable person" if no thought is given to the broad scope of consequences that might result from his transformative endeavors or to ecological problems. They are not at all fatal.

The Political Report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 27th Party Congress noted that "socialism with its planned system of organization and its humanitarian world outlook is capable of making the interrelationship between society and nature a harmonious one."

One example of such harmony might be the sealed resource-saving system of industrial water supply and waste processing of the First of May Industrial Center in the Ukraine. Its development and opening of operations was noted last year by the awarding of a USSR State Prize. Today, there are many enterprises in the country which have ceased polluting water reservoirs with untreated sewage. Within the last five-year period alone, the dumping of sewage into rivers and lakes has been reduced by one-third. Approximately 250 cubic kilometers of water are flowing through circulating and secondary water supply systems, which is the amount of water annually brought by the Volga to the Caspian Sea. The number of emitted air

pollutants in our country is also being reduced. Work on the recultivation of spoil banks and depleted strip mines is being expanded. Young forests are replacing those that have been cleared.

The party and government have been giving nature conservation problems their constant attention. The decrees on the intensification of nature conservation and the improved utilization of the entire country's natural resources as well as specific sites and regions, are well known and remain an indispensable guide for action. Specific decisions were made with respect to Yasnaya Polyana and Baykal. The decree to halt work on the diversion of part of the northern and Siberian rivers resulted in broad public support and satisfaction.

Nature conservation in our country is an integral part of state policy. A number of the party's and government's decisions were essentially designed to correct the mistakes caused by ecologically ignorant supervisors of some departments and planners who could only think within the confines of their departments. These kinds of mistakes can no longer be tolerated. Something should also be said about greater responsibility. And not only responsibility to nature, but also to the nation. The shoaling and impoverishment of the Aral Sea's fish reserves is a tragedy for many inhabitants of the seashore regions. Perhaps in this particular case it is difficult to find who was guilty of negligence in the way water was used in the rivers that fed into the sea. But there are clearer cases. PRAVDA readers have been asking, for example, what kind of responsibility was demonstrated by those supervisors who decided to construct a dead-end dam at the Kara-Bogaz-Gola sand bar without providing for the eventual need to release water into the bay. As is known, considerable efforts and funds had to be expended to correct the mistake, and time was lost too.

Letters report many incidents in the oblasts and rayons. In one case a large pump-driven irrigation system was adopted which, after failing to pay for itself after a few years and unable to yield the promised higher harvest, went out of commission. Moreover, the system resulted in the swamping or salination of farmlands. In another case, in the rush to finish large-scale projects, a drainage network was put down not only under a water-logged lowland field, but also under a dry valley which resulted in its overdrainage. A constant object of criticism in the readers' letters has characteristically been the USSR Ministry divisions and the USSR Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources as a whole, and its industrial subdivisions. In the opinion of many readers the organizations subordinate to the Ministry are more often guided not by the interests of genuine reclamation, i.e., improvement of the land, but rather by the goal of achieving high gross output indices and volume of "assimilated" capital investments. The leadership of the Ministry and its party organization should be most attentive of the criticism directed at them in the letters, and must draw the proper conclusions from those criticisms.

An urgent reevaluation and supplemental ecological substantiation are particularly required for the current plans to replenish the Volga waters.

with northern river runoff through the Volga-Choray canal, and other large-scale water resource measures in the river lowlands. All of the major regional projects should be subject to a broad preliminary and substantive review by the scientific community. Many ministries are to be reprimanded for the lack of attention given to nature conservation problems. There is no doubt that the USSR Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry whose enterprises are among the country's worst polluters of waterways, must draw profound and practical conclusions from the fact that the Ladoga Lake Cellulose and Paper Pulp Plant was shut down by sanitation officials. The wide-scale development now under way of the Caspian lowland resources requires an activation of nature conservation efforts on the part of the ministries of the petroleum, gas, petroleum refinery and petrochemical industries whose enterprises have been guilty of considerable neglect in this matter in the course of working the resources of the Tyumen North. The local party and Soviet organs are also obligated to pay more attention to ecological problems.

Our obligation is to make rational, prudent, and thorough use of our natural resources. We don't have any other land except our own. It is the duty of each person to conserve and multiply the land's wealth. The Soviet country is enormous, its landscapes are varied, and it is simply essential to preserve its life-giving diversity which has given us and continues to give us more than just grain, fuel, and ore. Nature inspires. Let its strength, beauty and grandeur be henceforth preserved.

6289

CSO: 1800/283

REGIONAL ISSUES

LATVIAN CP CC REPRIMANDS OFFICIALS FOR FALSIFYING STATISTICS

Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 27 Dec 86 p 1

[Report: "In the Central Committee of the Latvian Communist Party"]

[Text] The Latvian Communist Party Central Committee Buro examined the problem of serious Latvian SSR Ministry of Local Industry (Minmestprom) and Ventspilsskiy Party Raykom and Rayispolkom deficiencies in fulfilling the CPSU Central Committee's decisions involving eradicating fraud and deception.

It was noted that there are cases of fraud, deception and bookkeeping distortions in the Ministry of Local Industry and the Ventspilsskiy Rayon. Data from the 20 Minmestprom enterprises that were inspected showed that overstatements covering product deliveries and the accomplishment of construction work totalled approximately 900,000 rubles. Exaggerations in accomplishing planned tasks cost the government significant losses. There were excesses of more than 160,000 rubles in listing incentive funds and prizes of more than 15,500 rubles were illegally paid out in the "Ausma" and "Darba Spars" associations, the "Liyelupe" factory, the "Talsi" factory and Livanskiy glass factory. A number of enterprises met their delivery plans by violating the delivery transportation sequence that had been agreed upon with trade organizations and consumer enterprises and by changing the range of products being delivered. There are cases where enterprises realized their production goals through increasing prices which led to their overstating the accomplishment of planned indicators and receiving illegal profits. Fraud is very widespread in construction and in the use of motor transport.

Cases where the Minmestprom and the republic's Committee of Unions for Local Industry and Municipal and Domestic Enterprise Workers are allowing places in socialist competition to be awarded to enterprises that exaggerated and distorted data during the reporting period are causing great moral damage. This was how positions were awarded in the All-Union Socialist Competition at the "Latvijas Stikls" association and the "Dobele" factory, in republic competition at the "Yurmala" association and in oblast competition at the "Ausma" association. There are many cases where data on socialist competition involving workers have been misrepresented.

Local party organizations in the Ministry apparatus and the enterprises that are within its jurisdiction are not making enough use of their right to monitor the administration's activities in the fight against exaggerations and fraud. These issues have not been reviewed at party meetings. And reports by

ministry apparatus and enterprise managers on the issue of eliminating cases where data is being misrepresented and the actual state of affairs is being embellished, are still not the norm. Party organizations still review only one-sixth of the cases of fraud. They have not uncovered a single case of exaggeration through their own initiative and are not evaluating this anti-state activity in a sharp, fundamental manner. Local trade-union committees, people's monitoring groups and posts, the "Komsomol Searchers" and other groups of social control are playing a minor role in the struggle against fraud.

Cases of bookkeeping misrepresentation that were detected in Ventspilsskiy Rayon are primarily in the agricultural arena -- farms are exaggerating data on milk production, and the productivity of milk herds, herd weights are understated during sales to the local people and data on the procurement of hay and on the use of tractors and other equipment in the various stages of work is being exaggerated. Residential construction at the Uzvara kolkhoz and the Targal settlement was overstated, the volume of rayon MSO [medical detachment] and RSU [repair and construction detachment] construction work was overstated and data in calculating social and political measures, the number of lectures and political information sessions and the number of cultural and sporting events that were presented was misrepresented. There were cases of fraud in the Komsomol raykom network and in local Komsomol organizations.

The reasons for this widespread exaggeration and fraud were that managers in the Ministry of Local Industries and in Ventspilsskiy Rayon did not monitor operations. There were also serious deficiencies in organizing to meet the demands of the 27th CPSU Congress and subsequent party and government decrees which state that distortions of the actual state of affairs were not to be tolerated.

Latvian SSR Minister of Local Industry R. P. Misan was given a severe reprimand and a note was made in his party card for serious deficiencies in managing his department in such a way that it led to wide-spread exaggeration and fraud and poor control over monitoring and revision work. Ministry Party Buro Secretary V. Yu. Tormozov was given a severe reprimand for poor control over the work of the ministry apparatus and for being unscrupulous in carrying out CPSU Central Committee instructions to eradicate exaggerations and fraud. Republic Ministry of Local Industry First Deputy S. I. Meykshan was given a severe reprimand and a note in his party card for not taking measures to prevent and suppress exaggerations and deceit in departmental enterprises. There were thoughts of having them announce their retirements.

Ventspilsskiy Raykom Council of People's Deputies Ispolkom Chairman Ya. A. Gulinh was given a severe reprimand for serious deficiencies in organizing the fulfillment of CPSU Central Committee demands to decisively eradicate the practices of exaggeration and fraud. The Rizhskiy Party Gorkom through the local party organization was charged with reviewing the issue of former Ventspilsskiy Party Raykom First Secretary I. S. Terentyev's (now working as the chairman of the Association of Latvian Republic Agro-cooperative Societies) party responsibility and the Ventspilsskiy Raykom was charged with

reviewing the issue of Rayispolkom First Deputy Chairman and RAPO [Rayon agro-industrial association] Council Chairman U. T. Pumpur's responsibility and that of other officials who allowed cases of state fraud.

The resolution that was adopted was based on the CPSU Central Committee Resolution on "The Unsatisfactory Fulfillment of CPSU Central Committee Decisions on Eliminating Exaggerations and Fraud by the Moldavian CP Central Committee, the Ukrainian CP Kirovgorad Obkom, and the USSR Minavtoprom [Ministry of Automotive Industry] and instructed party gorkoms and raykoms, and also local party organizations and republic ministries and departments: to review the situation in regards to the efforts to carry out party decisions to eradicate cases of state fraud; to examine these facts not only as official crimes, but also as serious crimes against the party; and to consider those who exaggerate as unfit for party membership. The resolution stipulated that it become a practice to discuss at party and general meetings any case of exaggeration and to inform labor collectives about measures to eliminate such cases. Any enterprise, association and organization that allowed exaggerations and misrepresentations of data in accomplishing its plans and obligations is to be removed from consideration during the review of socialist competition. In the event exaggerations are detected among the competition winners, they are to be deprived of the rank that they were given. The resolution guarantees full restitution of prizes that were awarded as a result of fraud. All of these are to be highly publicized.

The Latvian SSR Council of Ministers must: increase control over the work that its ministries and departments carry out to combat exaggerations and fraud; demand from them that the state receive restitution for salaries and prizes paid out illegally; also make Ministers, state committee chairmen and department managers more responsible for setting up effective monitoring and revision work.

The Latvian SSR Procurator's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Republic Ministry of Justice must increase the role of on-site law enforcement agencies in preventing, uncovering and suppressing in a timely manner exaggerations associated with deceiving the state and must make the punishment of guilty people inevitable. The Latvian SSR Committee of People's Control is charged with: increasing the work activities of people's control groups and posts; setting up the comprehensive examination of bookkeeping authenticity; vigilantly following the establishment of departmental control; and focusing more attention on preventing and eliminating deficiencies.

Mass media and propaganda agencies are charged with: guaranteeing wide publicity for the fight against exaggerations; being more critical and fundamental in criticizing those who are involved in fraud and those who indulge them; and creating conditions of social contempt for such people. Party committees must increase the role of local press in this work and must strive for the objective and timely review of critical press materials.

12511
CSO: 1800/229

END



END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

28 May 1987